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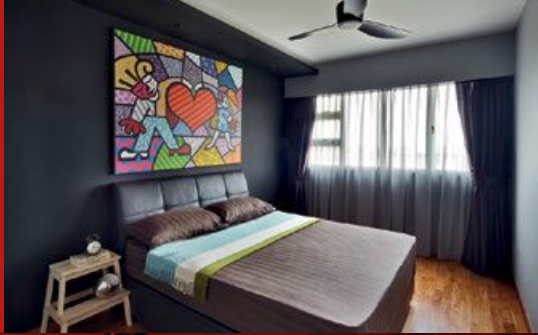
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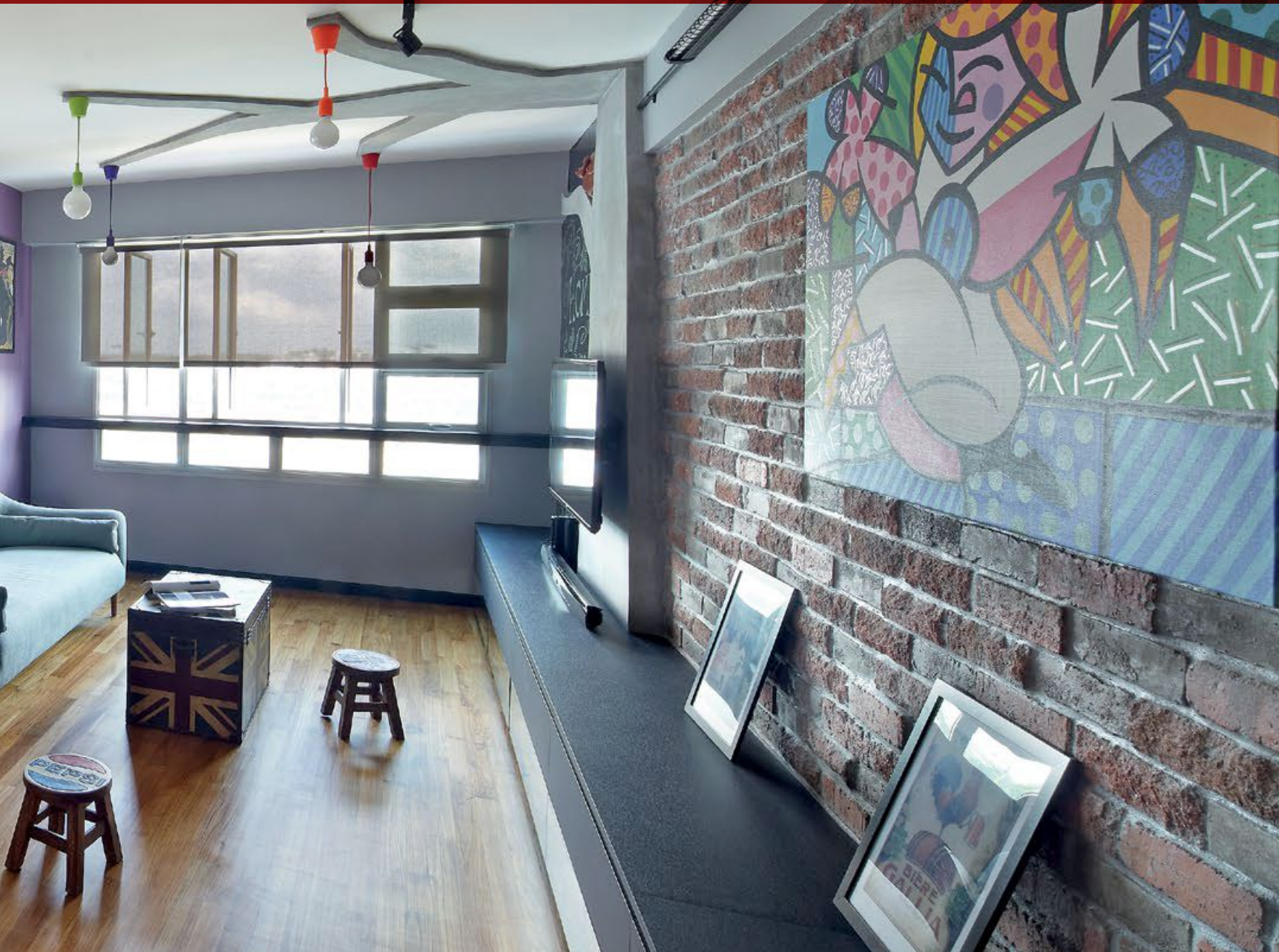


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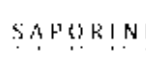


Harvey Norman

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BRANCHING OUT

We can't pinpoint when the Scandinavian style landed on our sunny shores, but it's safe to say it's here to stay. In fact, homeowners here have gotten so creative. We've seen homes with their own Scandi interpretations based on individual style preferences and lifestyle needs. It definitely strikes a deeper impression and has more character than a home modelled after a show flat.

Which comes to this: The SquareRooms July 2015 issue which will inspire you to carve out your piece of Scandi haven. It could be fused with the likes of the equally hot industrial style or be mixed in with modern or vintage embellishments. Whatever it is, the Scandi style—revered for its versatility and simplicity—can take on anything. Check out page 38 for our main story on the different Scandi spin-offs that have emerged. It will definitely give you a clearer direction on how to get started.

Besides that, there are of course, more engaging feature stories to make your home a better place. Good with your hands? Don't toss your wine bottle corks just yet as our SIMPLE section on page 56 shows you a few interesting ways to turn it into cool home decor pieces.

See you next month!

Cheers,

The SquareRooms team

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MIDNIGHT MUSE

Defined by darker colours and simplified graphics, Hunting for George's Moody Blues collection includes key pieces like Colonel Mustard (which comes in a muted yellow underside) and Chubby Checker (white checks on classy grey) quilt sets. Besides new prints, the range also introduces new textures such as the Australian merino wool blankets, buffalo leather cushion covers and hand poured concrete clocks to accompany their popular pure cotton sateen bed linens.



Going Old School

The Col collection of seats by Francesc Rife Studio is a reinterpretation of the school chair in the '80s and '90s. Col has a curved, varnished steel structure, a departure from the straight lines we commonly see in the classics. Its seat and chair back are made from beech plywood and come with the possibility of adding padding in various fabrics to make it more comfortable.

SEEING SEAMS

Canisters is a collection of five ceramic centrepieces designed by Benjamin Hubert for Italian ceramic manufacturer Bitossi Ceramiche. The moulds undergo a slip casting process, where they are split several times. This leads to the introduction of seam lines on the moulds' surfaces. Rather than clean up the seams, as per normal practice, they remain as embellishments on the ceramics to give the completed pieces a unique decor detail.





INTO THE FUTURE

It may look like an ordinary clothes rack, but DINO is actually produced using 3D printing technologies. Manufactured by Finnish design studio Kayiwa with Materialise, a firm that provides 3D printing services, DINO features an open

closet system, and is functional yet undeniably design savvy. Sleek and stylish hangers are suspended along an electro-polished stainless steel structure, and can be swung back and forth or moved from side-to-side.



NEW FRONTIER

Dutch design brand Moooi has launched its first store in the US. Located in New York in the Nomad area, the 3,875-square foot space is swathed in raw concrete structures and flooring. This provides the perfect platform to showcase its products, which are renowned for their quirkiness and eccentricity. Each junction inside also reveals an inspirational home setting, set to engage onlookers with interesting interior ideas.



Fish Out Of Water

Spanish design firm MUT has designed a new and fun line of ceramic wall tiles, and it's aptly named Scales seeing as the collection draws inspiration from the iridescent quality of the outer covering of fish. The sides of the tiles are coated in neon colours, contrasting with the main face in white. When the tiles are aligned together, the cheerful hues glow collectively to brighten up any room.



SOPHISTICATED SPARKLES

The luminaire designs from Italian lighting brand Patrizia Volpato are both avant garde and traditional, in part because of designer Patrizia's aspiration to carry forward the Venetian glass crafting heritage which she acquired growing up. As such, the lights are not only visually stunning, but also encompass the techniques behind the glassmaking craft. Popular collections include the Boccioli, a modern and elegant range that features illuminating crystal flowers, and Magma, a lighting series that contrasts the imagery and tactility of molten lava against glistening crystals. The crystal pendants are handground, and come in red, amber, transparent or amethyst colour variants.

**Available at Ventinove, 20 Sin Ming Lane, #08-61
Midview City, tel: 9362 1920, www.patriziavolpato.it**



SWANKY SEATS

To celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday, British interior designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen has created the SG50 Cocktail tufted sofa. Decked out in rich, purple velvet, it is part of the Laurence Collection for Courts, comprising a total of 14 sofas and two armchairs. This series of seats holds true to Laurence's dramatic style and love for lush, ornate details, and embodies a range of styles – from monochromatic slick shapes to intricate floral prints.

Utilitarian Appeal

Unlike the conventional industrial furniture we're accustomed to, District Eight's Briggs dining chair (\$925) blends wood and steel elements seamlessly without visible hardware. Featuring a pared down design, the chair's wooden backrest and seat with hand finished brass welds sit on a fine heat bent steel wire frame.

Available in hard fumed oak and smoked oak at Journey East, 315 Outram Road, #03-02 Tan Boon Liat Building, tel: 6473 1693, www.journeyeast.com



Monolith Puro Glass Design by Geberit

As a testament to the Monolith Puro WC system's customisability and to coincide with Singapore's golden jubilee, sanitary ware leader Geberit held a Monolith Puro Glass design competition earlier in March this year. The brief: 'SG50 – Uniquely Singapore'. Participants in both the categories, professional and student, were asked to use the glass panel of the Monolith Puro to depict what was unique to Singapore.

In the professional category, freelance designer Kyzer Ong Wei Sheng clinched the top prize, a return trip to Switzerland, while Ng Zhuang Man, who is currently studying for her diploma at Orita Sinclair, won in the student category and walked away with a MacBook Air. We chat with the winners to find out more.

Congratulations! Tell us, how do you feel about winning?

Kyzer: I feel really honoured to see my design printed on the Geberit Monolith Puro. I'm also really looking forward to my Switzerland trip with my girlfriend!

Zhuang Man: I didn't expect to win, but it was definitely good exposure for me.

What was the inspiration behind your designs?

K: My design was inspired by the queuing spirit of Singaporeans. We love to queue, and many a times, we don't even know what we're queuing for! Toilet queues, like the one I designed, are one of the most common scenes we see. I chose to illustrate this using the shape of a heart, as Singapore may be small in size but we are certainly big-hearted!

ZM: I decided to go with something fun so I went with local snacks since I love to eat, and the iconic dragon playground in Toa Payoh. I chose ang ku kueh (red bean cakes) and peng kueh (rice cakes) as they have unique shapes.

What were some challenges you faced?

K: The main challenge for me was incorporating the uniquely Singapore theme into a sanitary-related product. It's something really different from what I usually do (which is 3D visualisation), but I enjoyed the whole process.

ZM: Time! Having to design for the contest between work and school was a real challenge.



CAST IN CONCRETE

It's now easier to recreate the industrial look in your home with Keon, a new colour under the Dekton Tech surface materials by Cosentino. The new hue is inspired by the appearance and texture of concrete and is available in large format tiles (320cmx144cm) and various thickness levels (0.8cm, 1.2cm and 2cm). **Available at Cosentino City, 34/35 Duxton Road, tel: 6713 9543, www.cosentinogroup.net**

GREEN & GENTLE

Bio-Home has introduced new laundry detergents that are not only environmentally friendly, but gentle on users too. That is all thanks to the PlantMoist ingredient that moisturises your skin through your clothes after wash. There are two fragrance options, hyacinth and nectarine, both of which have silk protein to protect your expensive garments like those made of silk and wool. **Available in two versions, regular (\$11.90) and delicate (\$12.45), at major supermarket stores**



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*Available at major electronic stores.
For more information, visit www.hitachiconsumer.com.sg*



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D-Link's PowerLine AV 500 Wireless AC600 extender (\$99) increases the Wi-Fi range in your home and eliminates wireless dead spots. And you will only need a single wire to plug it to your router without extra cables as the extender connects to existing electrical circuitry with the PowerLine technology. To top it off, the nifty device has a dual-band transmission feature that eases data congestion when you perform multiple data-intensive activities. What this means is you can check your emails without any lag even while someone is streaming HD YouTube videos from the next room.

Available at Challenger

SMART STORAGE

What's great about LG's newest multi-door refrigerator, the GF-D6011LB, is that it helps you organise your fridge. There's a folding shelf that you can collapse to make room for larger or taller items. It also comes with tilting baskets to keep your produce fresh, sliding drawers to access heavier items easily, and removable shelving for storing everyday essentials like sauces and spreads. But the best part is its door-in-door system. With just a push of a button on the right door, it opens up to a slim compartment within the frame itself. Place go-to foods like snacks and drinks without having to use the main door, effectively saving time and energy consumption.

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Clever food puns on Paddy Hills' walls.



Drip coffee

instaworthy HOTSPOT

From decor to grub, these picturesque eateries are bound to get you likes and lots of followers on your Instagram

TEXT Chew Hui Ling PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh & Ian Jeimz
unless otherwise stated



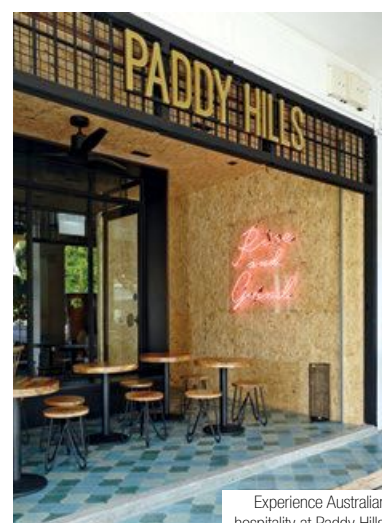
YET ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT

making its rounds on social media, the Aussie-inspired Paddy Hills is fast chalking up points for its aesthetic appeal. We're tickled by the exterior #OOTD-worthy wall covered in clever pictorial food puns – see if you can decipher them all! For food, you have to order the photogenic Berry Ricotta Hotcake (\$19) and a colourful, refreshing bowl of Plantation (\$17), a tasty mix of quinoa, puffed rice, pine nuts and pomegranate. Coffee lovers can also expect note-perfect brews crafted from the eatery's beastly Slayer machine – it means serious business.



Plantation

Berry Ricotta Hotcake



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www.facebook.com/paddyhills.sg



Coffee Jelly



THIS FRESHLY MINTED CAFE has only just debuted, but its glorious Taro Waffles (\$12.90) have already been mushrooming all over our feeds. Nestled at the basement of Big Hotel, the industrial-chic Froth welcomes visitors with its line-up of inventive dishes – Doritos Crust Winglets



Taro Waffles

(\$11.90) and Coffee Jelly (\$7.50), anyone? The star waffles of the menu arrives on a rustic wooden board, topped with a scoop of ice cream and drizzled with pale violet yam sauce. Pair it with the Bubblegum Milkshake (\$10.90) for the ultimate top-down #foodstagram shot.



Industrial aesthetics define Froth.

Froth
#B1-02 Big Hotel
200 Middle Road S188980
tel: 6336 1228
www.facebook.com/frothsg



Doritos Crust Winglets



Flower Paape & Som Som Latte



TUCKED ALONG THE SHOPHOUSES of Keong Saik Street, this is from the same Seoul cafe chain known for its quirky banana-themed flourishes. The chirpy eatery has a few hits. But if you're fishing for 'likes' on Instagram, order the much-raved Flower Paape (\$6.50), featuring melt-in-your-mouth pudding served with a mini shovel, or get the Som Som Latte (\$7) which is topped with a cloud of cotton candy. The franchise's current absence of variety for its signature Pot Bing Soo (\$12.50) might seem odd, but we've been told they'll be rolling out new flavours soon.



Banana Tree is known for its cheery decor.

Banana Tree
26 Keong Saik Road S089133
tel: 6221 5020
www.facebook.com/bananatreesg



THE LITTLE PRINCE CREAMERY



Hand-drawn illustrations flank the front glass entrance.

WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT a fairytale land would exist below a block of flats? This whimsical hangout pays homage to the classic Le Petit Prince, with the interior decked out in hand-painted murals depicting scenes from the novel. Specialising in hand-crafted gelato, The Little Prince takes pride in every spoonful, dishing out flavours like Thai Milk Tea, Earl Grey Latte and Funky Monkey (\$3 for classic flavours, \$3.90 for the premium ones). Order them atop crispy waffles, and you'll have yourself a lovely afternoon treat, and a sight for Instagram.



The Little Prince Creamery
46 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh
#01-134 S310047
tel: 8684 8218
www.facebook.com/LittlePrinceCafe



DAZZLING CAFE

IN 2005, TAIWANESE SOCIALITE Janet Yang started the Dazzling business by bringing in designer fashion ware. It wasn't until 2010 that she and her brother debuted Dazzling Cafe, bringing together elements of fashion, luxury and food under one roof. The food business soon

overshadowed the fashion venture and the chain's outlets are now some of the most popular hangout spots in Taiwan. Their sunlit two-storey flagship branch here is their first in South-east Asia. While queues can be long, it's worth snagging a seat to admire the quirky decor while sampling Taiwan-style Western delights such as the popular honey toast. The joint also includes a champagne bar that serves up some of the prettiest drinks we've seen.



Photos by Dazzling Cafe

Dazzling Cafe
#01-85 Capitol Piazza
15 Stamford Road S178906
www.dazzlingdazzling.com



Party in your Mouth



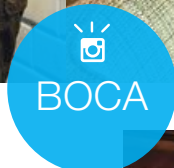
Bacon & Mushroom Fettucine



Chef Luca Bordini (left) and Chef Francisco Vaz (right)



See the chefs in action at the open kitchen.



THEY SAY DON'T JUDGE a book by its cover, but at Boca, the stunning interiors – designed by Gracinha Viterbo, daughter of celebrated Portuguese ID Graca Viterbo – are just a pre-appetiser to the delicious meal to come. Set up by a group of Portuguese yearning for authentic classic flavours, the owners wanted to introduce locals here to the food, wine and design from their homeland. Thus, everything from the ceramic andorinha birds decking the walls to the dishes they serve on all hail



Ceramic birds adorn the walls.



Flamed chorizo



Octopus Salad

from Portugal. Two young but experienced chefs were also brought in to recreate classics using ingredients that were specially flown in. Standout menu items

for us were the Cod Fritters (\$15), Shrimp Acorda ('porridge', which is essentially a bread casserole) (\$28), Coffee Steak (\$48), and our favourite, the authentic Portuguese egg tarts (\$4.50 each). Fewer than 30 of the flaky pastry are made by the chefs each day, so put in an order when you place your reservation.



Portuguese egg tarts

Boca

6 Bukit Pasoh Road S089820
tel: 6221 0132
www.boca-restaurant.sg

Photos by Boca

LINEAR *elegance*

*Add an edge (or six) to your home
decor with these geometric finds*

TEXT & COORDINATION

Ho Pei Ying assisted by Felicia Tan



TOM DIXON HEX BOWL
from \$150 at XTRA



**HEIDI LONDON
HEXAGON SUNGLASSES**
\$422 (US\$315) at Wolf & Badger



ANGULO CUSHION
from \$439 (AU\$425) at Art Hide

**MON BIJOU SAINT
TROPEZ NECKLACE**
\$26 (AU\$24.90) at
The Design Gift Shop



**B&B ITALIA
HIVE OTTOMAN**
\$3,565 at Space Furniture



**TOM DIXON GEM
SIDE TABLE**
\$2,969 at XTRA

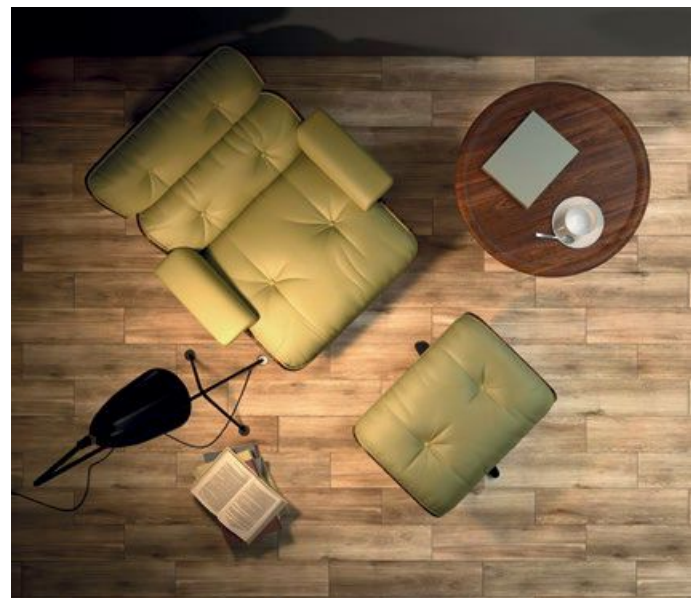


VITRA PRISMATIC TABLE
from \$890 at Space Furniture



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\$111 each at
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**JONATHAN ADLER
CERAMIC FOX**
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Store at Lifestorey



**HOWDY OWL
SCULPTURE**
from \$198 at Grafunkt



**NARA COAT
STAND**
\$1,127 at
Danish Design

woodland WHIMSY

*Create your own nature haven
by introducing forest elements
to your nest in the city*

TEXT & COORDINATION
Ho Pei Ying assisted by Felicia Tan



**KARTELL FOLIAGE
ARMCHAIR**
\$1,700 at Space Furniture



**FEATHER
NECKLACE**
\$93 at Love At
First Blush (Etsy)



WITH ITS ALL-NEW TIMER CONTROL
FUNCTION, AEROGAZ'S HOBS REVOLUTIONIZE
KITCHEN SAFETY WITH STYLE



www.aerogaz.com

Available models: AZ-693SFT, AZ-930FT, AZ-720SF/720SFT
Safety reminder: Do not leave the gas stove unattended at all times.



IN FULL CONTROL

A timer control function with an alarm that goes off when the pre-set time is up



SAFETY FIRST

A flame failure device that cuts off the gas supply when the flame accidentally goes out



COOL & CHIC

Fitted with sturdy enameled cast iron pan supports and available in either 304 stainless steel or tempered glass finishes

Since 2003, Aerogaz has been providing a range of high quality home appliances specialising in hobs, hoods and instant water heaters to suit our modern lifestyle. All Aerogaz products are subjected to stringent quality checks, compliance to international quality standards and are certified before release. With these in place, Aerogaz has launched an innovative and highly efficient range of hobs that encompasses state-of-the-art safety features, particularly perfect if you have elderly folks at home. So make the decision to create a safer kitchen with an Aerogaz hob today.



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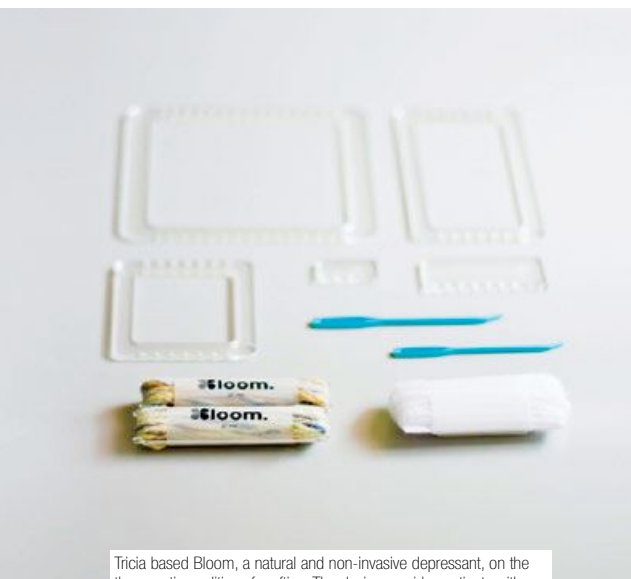
North: Woodlands Civic Centre, 900 South Woodlands Drive #03-07 Singapore 730900 t 6892 2219

five stars
ARISING

There's nothing short of talent among this group of emerging homegrown designers who recently exhibited at Milan Design Week. If you haven't heard of them, it's time to get acquainted

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

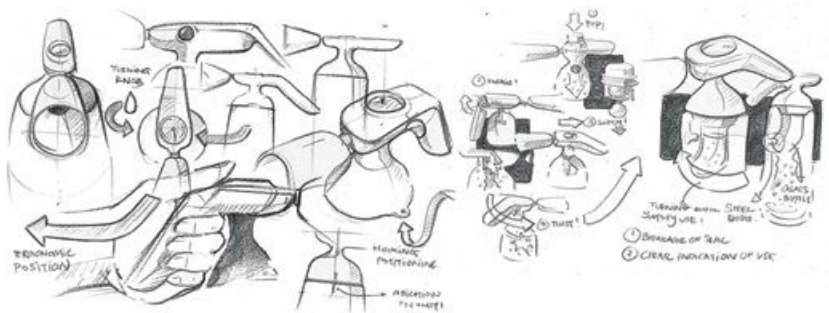
A t the recent Salone del Mobile 2015, 15 local designers were selected to submit their designs for The Alchemist project. They were tasked to explore the idea of transmutation (the changing of one chemical element into another) in their designs, turning an ordinary material into something precious. We huddle up five of the 15 up-and-coming talents, who are already making big waves in the design community, to find out what they do and what they'll be up to next.



Tricia based Bloom, a natural and non-invasive depressant, on the therapeutic qualities of crafting. The device provides patients with a crafting structure to guide them through their treatment sessions.



Unlike regular fire extinguishers, the Firearc extinguisher designed by Eason separately stores the bicarbonate salts and acid in a non-pressurised form. The substances, which produce carbon dioxide to extinguish fire, are only mixed when used by twisting the top. This means that it offers an expiry date that far exceeds conventional pressurised CO₂ extinguishers.



EASON CHOW
& TRICIA CHEAN
OF LOOLU

LOOLU CREATES...

designs that are user-centric and functional. Our designs respond to our surroundings, and we strive to develop designs that respond to untapped needs.

SIGNATURE STYLES

Eason: I love coming up with consumer and medical products, which tend to be more straightforward and are more user-oriented.

Tricia: As a graphic designer, I'm more attuned to colours and typography.

MATERIAL OBSESSIONS

E: Plastics of varying translucency and textures.
T: Craft materials such as leather and yarn – an added bonus if they're colourful!

WHAT'S NEXT?

E: I can't elaborate more at this point, but I'm looking at daily routines that people do subconsciously, and I'm hoping to transform these observations into useful designs to improve everyday lives.



Eason



Tricia

AFZAL IMRAM OF PROPER PEOPLE

PROPER PEOPLE IS...

a design studio that I co-founded with Ruiyin Lin, a jeweller. Our work includes branding, packaging design, and making bespoke corporate gifts and jewellery. We have a creative arm called Proper Lab that serves as our platform to experiment with different ideas.

DESIGN APPROACH

Being sensitive to the status quo yet also imagining a possibility to make things better.

I LOVE TO DESIGN

Lifestyle accessories – from jewellery to objets d'art to home decor. I like to be a little more conceptual and artistic in my work, and I think



Afzal



Afzal's furniture range evokes a sense of sensuality and tension through the interaction between fabric and structure.



One of Proper People's newest jewellery collections is P01 Future Artefacts, which explores the balance between the old and new. Drawing on old-world aesthetics, the series consists of 3D-printed pieces in hand-dyed nylon or alumide.

lifestyle objects – or things that don't always serve a strictly problem-solving or rational purpose – allow for that.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Proper People is launching a new line of fine jewellery in September. It's a contemporary take on fine jewellery with modern aesthetics, but still using the traditional materials of fine jewellery like precious metals and stones.



Afzal exhibited Les Raconteurs, a board game based on undeciphered archaeological drawings found in Burkina Faso, for The Alchemist project.



Melvin



Many of Melvin's work involve origami forms. Fraise is an ornamental paper collar that can serve as a planter, tray or simply as decor.

MELVIN ONG OF DESINERE

MELVIN DOES...

homeware accessories and bespoke furniture pieces under Desinere.

SIGNATURE STYLE

Quiet with a tinge of whimsicality

PRETTY PLEATS

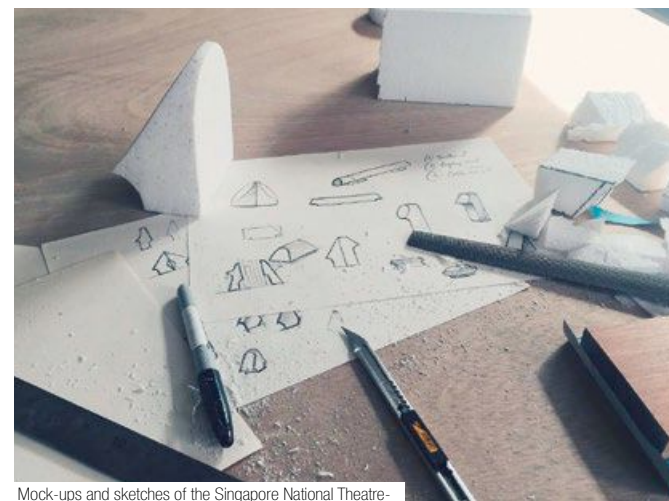
I discovered paper pleating when I was interning with Reiko Kaneko, a British-Japanese designer who works a lot with ceramic ware. In the process, I found it charming how paper, which is such an unassuming, ubiquitous material without much dimension and character, could be transformed to assimilate characteristics like being stretchy or springy after they're pleated.

WHAT'S NEXT?

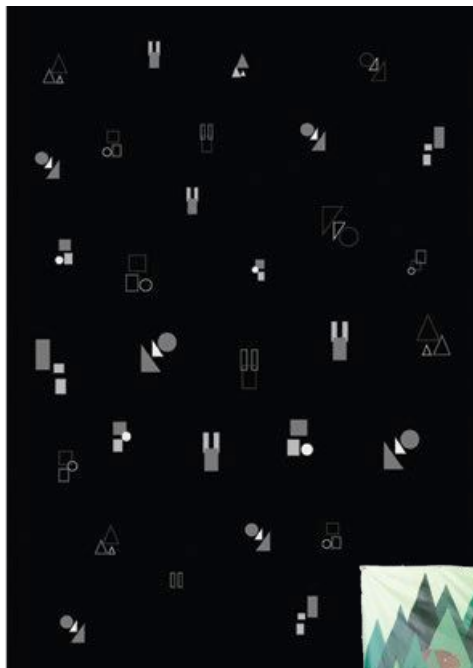
I'm working on monument-like desktop accessories inspired by the Singapore National Theatre. It's a pity that it's no longer around, but I am still very much intrigued by its structure and form.



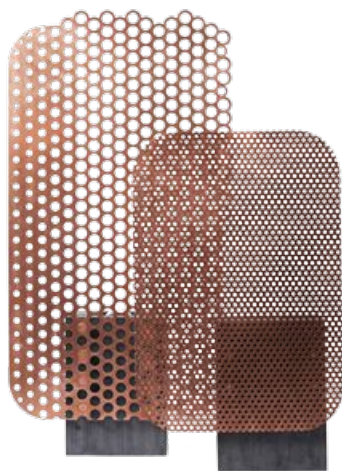
Melvin's The Alchemist submission were the Ruchette lamps, which take after the forms of ruffs seen on Elizabethan costumes.



Mock-ups and sketches of the Singapore National Theatre-inspired desktop accessories by Melvin. He aims to launch them in time for Singapore's jubilee celebration in August.



An illustration of Kiera's thought process, which she describes as "messy".



This set of Plexus lamps, which Kiera designed for the Milan exhibition, pays homage to the Oriental tradition of delicate screens to modulate natural and artificial lighting at home.



If you're looking for a space-saving play item, this is it. Hidie Hut is a play tent that hangs on the walls! Let your kids crawl into the tent to discover a whole new world of possibilities.



Kiera

KIERA LIN

KIERA IS ALWAYS...

curious about things. I'm also constantly on the lookout for new experiences and opportunities.

PROFESSION

I am an object designer trained in experience and product design.

DESIGN AESTHETIC

Clean and self-explanatory

WHAT'S NEXT?

I want to design a house where stray cats will be willing to stay. I'm actually hoping to do wearable stuff as well, but nothing that is too technologically-driven. Rather, I want to make things that are closer to the human body and that also deal with behaviours and interactions.

OLIVIA LEE

OLIVIA LIVES BY...

truth, meaning and beauty. Whenever I design, I stay true to the issue, striving for the simplest and purest outcome. I create things that are meaningful for others, hoping to foster an emotional connection between a human being and the object. Beauty also serves an important function – it celebrates, creates pleasures and inspires us to live better.

EXPERIENCE AT MILAN

It was overwhelmingly inspiring. There is just so much talent around the world. I'm also really proud that the Singaporean showcase more than delivered to the high international standards.

USEFUL ADVICE

This is the best time to be a trained industrial designer in Singapore. There is better recognition for design services as drivers for innovation. Designers are now having very



Olivia

different, enlightened conversation with banks, healthcare providers, start-ups and the public sector. Stay relevant and create value.

WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm really interested in smart textiles, smart materials and optical films. I'm also on the lookout for industry collaborations in these areas!



The Float tables were also part of The Alchemist exhibition. It looks like a lotus pond, supported by a trio of intertwining stems. Each table is unique, containing an arrangement of lotus leaves sourced from the region.



Instruments of Beauty is a collection of nine brass mathematical instruments, inspired by the golden ratio, a number which has fascinated many intellectuals in the past and present. Debuted at the Milan fair, the collection represents the convergence of disciplines (math, engineering and art) and ideals (spirituality and technology).

“We are excited to finally unveil this unique development that holds immense potential considering the EC’s attractive location and the government-led invigorating transformation of the region. Being an avid cyclist myself, we have travelled the extra mile to bring a cycling enthusiast’s dream home to reality.”

Francis Koh, Managing Director and Group CEO, Koh Brothers



PROPERTY NAME
Westwood Residences

LOCATION
Westwood Avenue

DEVELOPER
KBD Westwood Pte Ltd

MAIN CONTRACTOR
Koh Brothers Building & Civil Engineering Contractor (Pte.) Ltd

TENURE
99-year leasehold

EXPECTED TOP
3rd quarter 2018

NUMBER OF UNITS
480

UNIT SIZE (SQUARE FEET)
From 689 – 1,518

WESTSIDE *story*

Shedding its grotty industrial image, Jurong’s impending makeover into a vibrant lifestyle and commercial hub reveals exciting condominium launches

TEXT Disa Tan IMAGES COURTESY OF Koh Brothers



As part of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)’s Draft Master Plan 2008, Jurong is undergoing an extensive revitalisation phase. New shopping malls and commercial buildings have been sprouting across Jurong Lake District, and Jurong East has recently been chosen to house the high-speed rail terminus. With Jurong in the works to transform into Singapore’s next CBD within the next 10 years,

we turn your attention to one of its latest housing developments in the west, Westwood Residences.

CONCEPT

What’s striking about this new executive condominium development is its bike theme. It is an interesting departure from the usual premises of glitzy and nature-inspired concepts. The novelty is right on the money as Singapore is gearing up to become a



bike-friendly city. Boasting cycling concept arenas for both adults and kids, the 99-year leasehold EC is also designed to promote work-life balance and multi-generational living.

FACILITIES

Cycling, of course, reigns in Westwood Residences. So much so that it will comprise:

- An outdoor mini velodrome
- Two-tier bike hubs for about 500 lots
- Individual bicycle lockers secured by top-of-the-line biometric vein scanners and CCTVs
- Maintenance facility complete with repair tools and amenities (tyre pumps, air compressors, water hoses, bike racks and stands)
- A child-friendly BMX adventure park
- A traffic garden to educate kids on road safety

Besides these thrilling amenities which no other housing development can boast of, the proposed water and condominium facilities offer more appealing reasons to stay home. Aqua, indoor and outdoor gyms ideal for all ages encourage cross-generation family bonding; as does the outdoor alfresco pavilions outfitted with grill and hotplate features.



URBAN LIVING

As the second EC to be launched in Jurong after 18 years, there's a lot riding on Westwood Residences and it delivers with noteworthy designs. Nine 14-storey residential blocks will house 480 units which range from two-bedroom to five-bedroom units. You won't fret over tightly packed or claustrophobic cluster of units at Westwood – it aims to address the privacy issues between units. The balconies feature a sleek interplay of walls at alternate floors to prevent prying eyes from sweeping in, as well as serving as a stylish facade design.

For optimum living conditions, over 90 per cent of the tower blocks face the North-South orientation while 50 per cent of the units are privy to unrestricted views. Thoughtful touches such as the custom-designed balcony screens are catered for units facing the west while acoustic ceilings are provided for units along PIE.

For more information call 6262 1188 or visit www.westwoodresi.com.sg



6 reasons to journey to the West

90 MINS TO KL Estimated to be completed in 2020, the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur high-speed rail in Jurong East will get you to the Malaysian city in 90 minutes.

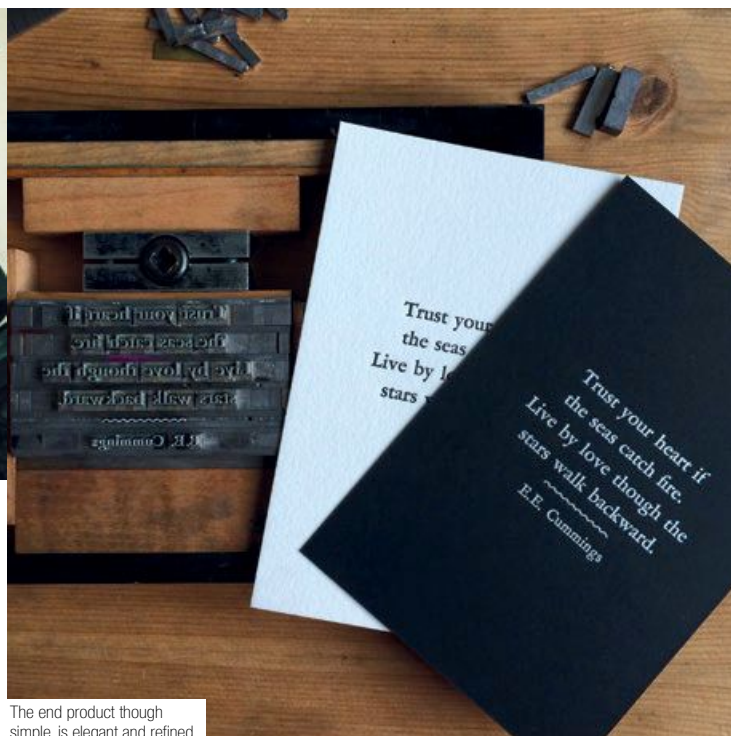
BULK SHOPPING Big Box, a warehouse-like hypermarket, opened late last year and offers a vast range of lifestyle products, groceries and furniture for a one-stop retail experience.

EXTENSIVE CYCLING NETWORK Designated cycling paths will be implemented progressively over the next few years to link cyclists to Jurong West, Bukit Batok, Taman Jurong and Teban/Pandan Gardens.

NEW SCIENCE CENTRE A new world-class Science Centre will be introduced and moved to the Chinese Garden MRT Station. Expect four or five new edutainment attractions to cater to families with young children.

STAYCATIONS GALORE Around 2,800 hotel rooms will be added along the fringe of Jurong Gateway. Genting Hotel Jurong by Resorts Worlds Sentosa is the first major hotel which has opened to welcome business and short-term visitors to the Jurong vicinity.

LAKESIDE VILLAGE Next to Jurong Lake and a 10-minute walk from Jurong Gateway, this lakeside village will offer a host of alternative shopping, dining and entertainment establishments.

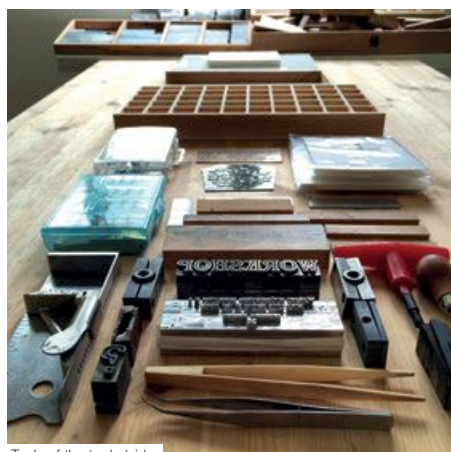


The end product though simple, is elegant and refined.

PRESSING *on*

In this digital age of e-cards and e-invites, a small group of letterpress craftsmen is leaving their mark the old-fashioned way

TEXT Cara Wong **PHOTOS** Bernice Wong, Yao Yu and Fabian Ong



Tools of the trade laid out on the table.

ong forgotten with the advent of faster and more efficient technology, letterpress printing is making its way back into the limelight with the help of three craftsmen here. Revived as an artisanal craft, it strikes a chord with those who are tired of digitally printed, and often mass produced, cards, yearning instead for something with a little more character and individuality – all of which letterpress printing provides.

Considered the oldest form of printing, letterpress printing involves an inordinately large amount of skill and dedication to make impressions of rows of words or illustrations on paper. From assembling movable type on the bed of the press to hand operating the often ancient machinery, a lot of manual labour is required just to transfer inked designs onto soft, thick paper.

Like most revivals, the new differs from the old. While printers in the past favoured 'kiss' impressions – where there are no indentations

on the paper, the three craftsmen today take pride in producing deep impressions. Jacqueline Goh from The Fingersmith Letterpress quips laughingly, "If they (the older generation) saw our work now, they'd probably tell us that it's terrible!"

But their customers beg to differ. Prints with deep indents are cherished amongst letterpress aficionados, who favour the texture and shadows created. These add a level of distinction to the postcards, wedding invites and name cards that are popular items for this process. And as with most handmade products, prices are higher than your average digital prints. According to Michelle Yu of The Gentlemen's Press, prices can range from \$1 to \$4 for a name card, and up to \$300 for a single poster.

It all seems worth it however, when one holds in their hands a print fresh off the press, containing a myriad of smells and textures that cannot be replicated anywhere else.



Michelle Yu,

Founder of The Gentlemen's Press
www.thegentlemenspress.tumblr.com
 tel: 9106 7572

The result of a rash and impulsive decision, The Gentlemen's Press is a fine example of a blessing in disguise. Michelle first picked up the craft in New York during her graduation trip there, and was struck by how affordable a machine was. With her mind set on learning more, the plucky entrepreneur picked out a letterpress machine and purchased it immediately after returning to Singapore shores. "I believe if we're not impulsive enough, we will never get to do things that we really want to do," said Michelle of her decision.

Now in its fourth year of operation, The Gentlemen's Press continues to make a name for itself among craft enthusiasts for its unique prints. Progressing towards more experimental work, the company even does customised music posters for local bands and musicians, something Michelle is particularly proud of. For something that came from a young and spontaneous whim, we'd say the outcome hasn't turned out too shabby at all.

"Letterpressing takes a lot of time to master and there's a lot of trial and error to it. It's more about perfecting the imperfections, and it's satisfying when you realise you improve with every batch of prints."

Michelle Yu,
 The Gentlemen's Press



The Gentlemen's Press' workspace at 64 Neil Road features a giant KFC metal signage.

Yao Yu,

Founder of Typesettingsg
www.etsy.com/sg-en/shop/Typesettingsg

Perfect for amateurs who wish to learn more about the craft, Typesettingsg offers letterpress workshops where participants get to experience it for themselves by creating their very own



masterpieces. These workshops are conducted by Yao Yu, who formerly worked as a studio manager at a signage company. Yao Yu's enthusiasm for typography led him to set up Typesettingsg, where he spreads his love for typography through his classes. Apart from workshops, Yao Yu does prints too, specialising in printing Chinese letters.

As he was hardly exposed to the craft during his time as a design student, Yao Yu believes the trade has some way to go before it becomes mainstream, "but it can always be a big thing in (design) schools so long as they incorporate more of it into the syllabus," he explains. To this end, he hopes his workshops will introduce a new generation of students to the centuries-old craft to pique their interest in it.



Yao Yu's collection of movable type.

“I didn’t think it’ll be a trend, but I guess people are getting sick of the digital world, and are more exposed to other forms of printing now.”

*Jacqueline Goh,
The Fingersmith Letterpress*



Jacqueline Goh,

Founder of The Fingersmith Letterpress
www.thefingersmithletterpress.com
tel: 9820 3648

Describing her journey into letterpress printing as one that was the result of a series of fortunate events, Jacqueline is the one-woman show behind The Fingersmith Letterpress. The business was founded in 2013 by the then 24-year-old, who did not want to have a regular nine to six deskbound job. After completing her business studies, she went on

to further her passion in arts by enrolling in Lasalle College of the Arts, and it was there that she was introduced to letterpress printing during a short lecture in her final year. That stoked her interest in the vanishing trade, and after a couple of other lucky coincidences – such as coming across an ex-letterpress craftsman who gave her more insight – The Fingersmith Letterpress was born.

Unlike the other start-ups, The Fingersmith Letterpress specialises in hand lettering and illustrations that are all created by Jacqueline herself. Arguably a more time-consuming process given that the design process itself can take up to three to four days alone, it is more closely aligned with Jacqueline’s talent in crafts. Bestsellers include a quirky postcard series entitled ‘Things I ate in Singapore’, featuring Jacqueline’s unique detailed illustrations of local favourites.



Jacqueline’s designs are often playful and witty.



The ‘Things I ate in Singapore’ postcard series features local norms.

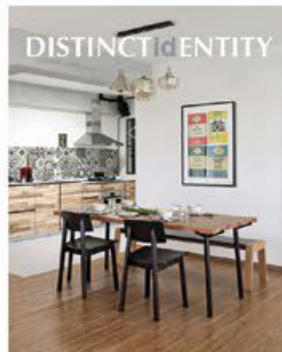
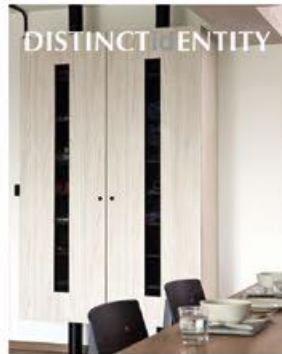
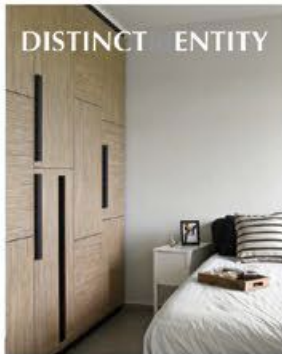


Have an unconventional business? Get Jacqueline to do your name cards. Her own reflects the whimsical style she strives for in her craft.

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DISTINCTidENTITY is committed to provide the best personal design experience to clients through its innovative and creative services. We desire to inspire the world one room at a time and we hold ourselves responsible to our clients by honoring our commitments, providing results and striving for the highest quality.



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DESIGN • INTERIORS • PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

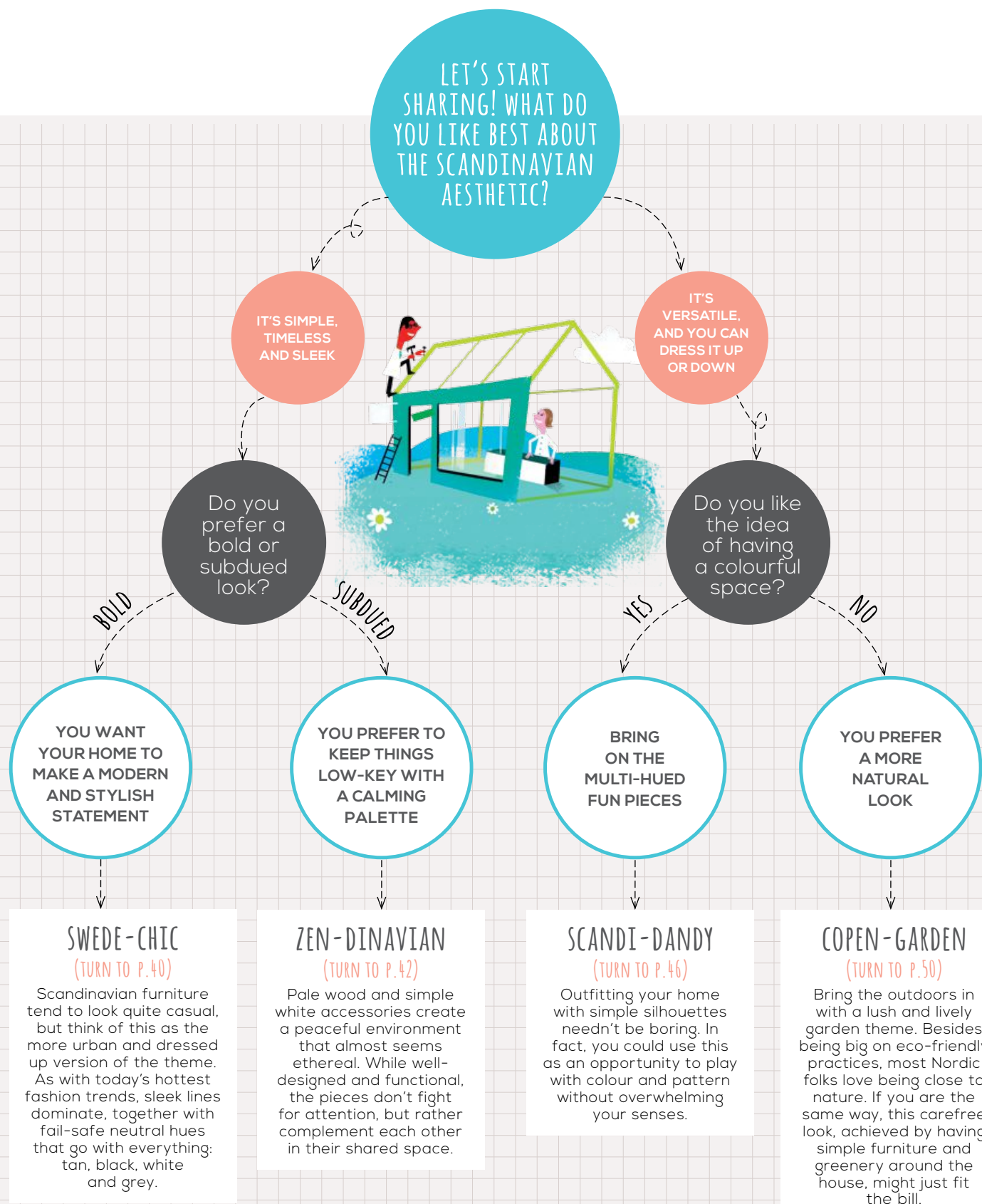


SCANDI SPIN-OFFS

THE SCANDI-INDUSTRIAL LOOK MIGHT BE HUGE, BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER RIFF ON THE NORDIC THEME, HERE ARE A FEW MORE STYLES YOU MIGHT LIKE TEXT Yuen Yi Ying

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying

Much as we love the Scandi-industrial look for its unisex and practical appeal, we'd like to see something different done with the versatile Scandinavian theme. If you're ready for a change as well, but still hankering after Nordic simplicity, we've come up with a few of our own fusion looks inspired by region. Share your preferences to see if we can find you a better fit! What do you think? Have we created the next buzzword?



STRIKE A BALANCE

The inky-hued dining set here prevents the sunlit apartment from looking washed out.



MONZA TABLE
\$4,195 at BoConcept

SWEDE-CHIC

A mostly monochrome collection of furniture will keep your place looking classy for years to come. Dress them up with treasured collectibles and printed cushions to add a personal touch to the space.



PILE IT ON

Patterned pillows, a rug and a throw make this setting look less imposing and better suited for lounging.

&Tradition



TAKE A CHANCE

It's a lot easier to pull off unusual silhouettes if you get your furnishings in darker hues.

GET
THE
LOOK

DARK DECADENCE

When picking dark-hued pieces, go for slimmer frames to prevent the furnishings from looking too bulky.



**MANTIS BS3
TABLE LAMP**
\$1,045 at Grafunkt



**HAY RAY
LOUNGE CHAIR**
available for indent
order at Grafunkt



**TROPICALIA SESSEL
MOROSO CHAIR**
\$1,716 (€1,154) at
einrichten-design



**LUGANO WALL MOUNTED
SYSTEM WITH DROP DOWN DOOR**
\$3,645 at BoConcept



BUTLER STAND
\$369 at CB2

ZEN-DINAVIAN

At the end of a crazy day, who wouldn't want to come home to a tranquil haven? Soft textures and tones create a sense of serenity, making you feel comforted and cared for as soon as you step in.

HUBSCH STORAGE UNIT
price upon application at
Meubeltrack.nl

COOL CHARM

Natural wood furniture has a quiet beauty and looks good with many themes. This open cabinet lets you display keepsakes and locate items quickly.

KEEP IT LIGHT

Pale hues and slim frames keep this dining set looking elegant, not bulky.



Danish Design



Ferm Living

SINK RIGHT IN

Despite its light palette, mixed textures make this place look cosy and inviting.

SIMPLY PERFECT

It's often true that less is best. These racks are just raw wood planks with leather straps, yet they make such a stylish statement.



**HUBSCH
SHELVES WITH
LEATHER
BRACKET**

\$83 (£39) at
Lo+Behold

STYLE+

**MUUTO UNDER
THE BELL LAMP**
available for indent
order at Lifestorey



CHILL CENTRAL

Create a heavenly retreat
with dreamy soft lighting
and plenty of storage to
hide stress-inducing clutter.



**3D STRUCTURE
TEALIGHT HOLDERS**
\$15 each at BoConcept



MILANO TABLE
from \$2,695
BoConcept



**&TRADITION CLOUD
TWO SEATER IN
DESERT STONE**
available for indent
order at Grafunkt



**FOSCARINI
KURAGE LAMPS**
price upon
application, at XTRA



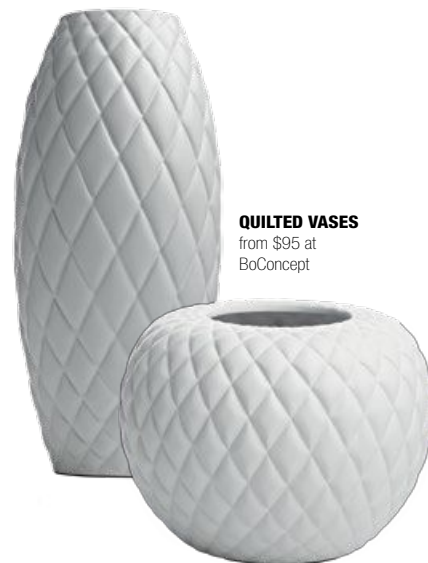
WILLA DOVE PILLOW
\$124.95 at Crate & Barrel



**MUUTO
PULL LAMP**
\$1,100 at Lifestorey



**HARTO SIMONE
SHELVING**
\$1,879 at XTRA



QUILTED VASES
from \$95 at
BoConcept

TONE IT DOWN

If bold shades are too much for you, pastels have the same mood-lifting effect.



HARTO GASTON WALL DESK
\$1,449 at XTRA



Harto

CUTE IDEA

Perk up your work space by painting the furniture legs in cheery hues.

PUNCHY ACCENTS

Fun pops of colour give this space a lot more character.



IKEA

SCANDI-DANDY

Scandinavian folks know how to do playful right without looking childish. The key: sensible forms with measured doses of colour.

WHIMSY SPIRIT

This feature wall is fun and functional, evoking a carefree vibe with the bunting and bicycle.



SWEET AND SIMPLE

Keep it classy by sticking to no more than three main shades in your colour scheme.



MODERN EDGE

Even with colourful furniture, touches of black help ground the look and add an urban feel.





PASTEL POPS

These lighthearted designs prevent your simply decorated home from looking sterile.



**SLOPE
SUSPENSION
LAMPS**
\$535 each at XTRA



**HAY TRAY
TABLE SOFT
YELLOW**
\$280 at Grafunkt



**CANDLE
HOLDERS**
\$17 each at
BoConcept



**THE FIFTY THREE
LARGE SOFA**
price upon application
at John Lewis



**HASEGAWA 3 STEP
ALUMINIUM LADDER**
\$229 at HipVan



**ILLUM LIGHTS
PINE CONE LAMP**
\$280 at HipVan

**CURIOUS
DISPLAY CABINET**
\$149 at Courts



**DAM ZE FLOOR
LAMP WITH
HANGER**
\$759 at HipVan



**HAY S&B
TEA TOWELS**
\$36 each at Grafunkt



**NORMANN
COPENHAGEN
TABLO TABLES**
from \$699 at Lifestorey

GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

Ferns and succulents are easy to care for if you don't think you have green fingers. Plus, they do well in compact pots, so you can have a few around the house without taking up too much space.



Ferm Living

HAPPY AT HOME

With leafy foliage right beside you, lounging on your chair to read is almost as nice as heading out to the park.



&Tradition

LIVING SPACE

With their fresh hue and gentle swaying in the breeze, plants are a great way to enliven any room.



Design by Free Space Intent

COPEN- GARDEN

If you like the industrial look, you might've been drawn to this theme for the organic untamed vibe of the verdant greenery. With their unfussy designs and natural elements, Scandinavian furnishings are a great fit for this modern yet rustic setting.

**&TRADITION
HOOF TABLE**
\$855 at Grafunkt



GET
THE
LOOK

NATURE CALLS

For practical reasons, pick pots and shelves that'll make it easy for you to care for plants, then complement them with warm wood furniture to add a sense of cosiness to the space.

**HERMAN MILLER
CROSSHATCH CHAIR**
\$5,819 at XTRA



**MUUTO REFLECT
SIDEBOARD**
\$5,500 at Lifestorey



**MUUTO LEAF GREEN
FLOOR LAMP**
\$795 from Lifestorey



**ALIVAR DIAPASON
BOOKCASE IN SOLID WHITE**
\$7,737 (£3,740) from Go Modern



**A STUDY
IN COPPER**

Not daring enough?
Start in a small part
of the home, like your
workspace, and play
with different shades of
the same metal to add
visual dimension.



METAL MASH-UP

**WHO SAYS YOU
CAN'T MIX METALS
IN HOME DECOR?**

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing

STYLING Biona Boon **PHOTOGRAPHY** Justin Loh

1 Marian Paper Holder (copper), \$59 from Galanga Living. **2** Black Deco House, \$79 from Egg3. **3** Mitzi Copper Votive, \$24.90 from Galanga Living. **4** Madam Stoltz Copper Bowl, \$22.90 from Make Room.



TABLE MANNERS

How you set your table can make or break the mood of a meal. Injecting copper and gold accents with cool silverware warms up the space instantly while making the setting feel less formal.

1 Madam Stoltz Hexagon Copper Tray, \$29 from Make Room. 2 Madam Stoltz Votive Candle Holder, \$15.90 from Make Room. 3 Madam Stoltz Aluminium Tray, \$24 from Make Room. 4 Madam Stoltz Gold and Copper Bottle Openers, \$44 each from Make Room. 5 Madam Stoltz A0 Tray, \$19.90 from Make Room. 6 Cutlery set of 3, \$89 from Egg3.



**EN SUITE
ELEGANCE**

Give your bathroom a glamorous old-world-meets-new-world feel by pairing polished and distressed metallic accents together. Tip: pick those with intricate details, so they won't look tacky!

1 Wire Hook, \$18 from Egg3. 2 Toilet Wire Hook, \$12.90 from Egg3. 3 Abbie Vase, \$8 from Galanga Living. 4 Opeum Candlebox (small), \$36.90 from Galanga Living. 5. Madam Stoltz Shiny Gold Clip, \$17.90 from Make Room.



GARDEN VARIETY

Don't overlook the indoor garden! Experiment with different metallic planters and pots, and jazz up the greenery with metals of different colours.

1 Madam Stoltz Copper Tea Light Holder, \$39 from Make Room.
2 Mini Cactus Candle in a pot, \$7.90 from Egg3. 3 Display Box,
\$35 from Egg3. 4 Wire Candle Holder, \$15.90 from Egg3.

SIMPLE



**SERVING
IN STYLE**

Impress your guests with this nifty serving tray that is so easy to make, you don't even need to glue down the corks!

*Yea armchair, \$1,150
Mullen side table, \$430*

CRAFTING WITH CORKS

**Wondering what to do with the wine
stoppers you've been hoarding? Put them
to good use with these easy ideas**

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **STYLING & CRAFTWORK** Neo Aik Sing & Khaili Teoh
PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh **SHOT ON LOCATION** OM
LISTED ITEMS AVAILABLE AT OM

**WHAT'S
HANGING?**

Organise your fashion accessories by using the stoppers as hooks. Just push your corks into the nails that you've hammered through a piece of wood.

Liana sideboard, \$1,000



SIMPLE



IT'S A FRAME UP

Surrounding your photo frame with these plugs gives it a zany, 3D effect. All you're left to do then is to put your best picture forward.

Leaf shelf, \$1,570

BUCOLIC BEAUTY

Add rusticity to your home decor by dressing up an old glass vessel with corks. For a more uniformed appearance, select pieces with similar lengths or just trim the sides if you have to.

Tree dining table, \$720





BEYOND CONVENTIONAL

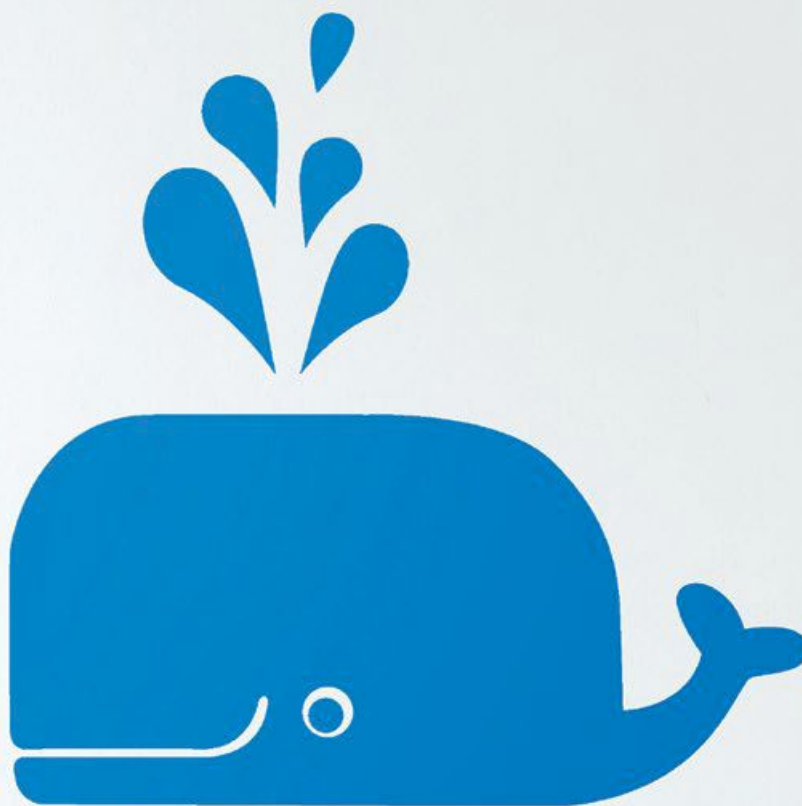
Why settle for a basic corkboard when you can create an ingenious one with stoppers? Unlike the flat and plain boards we're more accustomed to, the rounded edges give it a distinctive design detail.

1

DECAL DELIGHT

Having seen homes overwhelmed by an overkill of wall decals, we reckon all you need is one. Use that special sticker to create and define a concept corner, like a reading nook or a sideboard with your favourite things.

Ferm Living



bright ideas

With these truly illuminating touches, dark and dull living spaces will see the light

TEXT Disa Tan



2



**SWEET
CANDLELIGHT**

When lit up, tealight holders have a mesmerising effect on rooms. These lantern-like votives, with their graphic forms, are beautiful to look at even in broad daylight.

Graphic patterned votives in assorted sizes and colours, from \$27.15 at Bloomingville



3

HEAVY METAL

What we like about this anodised aluminium chair is that there's more to its pretty and shiny appearance. It's tough, and the contoured backrest will bring comfortable hours of sitting.

Delta side chair, \$199 from Crate & Barrel



4

BIN DREAMS

Two design powerhouses getting together can only mean one thing: a truly spectacular product. It rings true for quality homeware brand Brabantia, the 'Queen of prints' designer Orla Kiely, and their collaboration, Retro Bin. With Kiely's signature touches, their exclusive capsule collection will definitely bring cheer to the dullest of kitchens.

Available at major departmental stores

5

MARBLE MARVEL

Steal the timeless grace of luxury stones with marble bathroom accessories. A little sparkle can go a long way.

House Doctor Marble soap dispenser, \$89 from Journey East



6

CLUSTER CHIC

Up your lighting game with a large cluster of pendant lights. It'll have a similar effect to a glamorous chandelier – just less maintenance and a more current vibe.

11-piece frame cluster designed by IACOLI & MCALLISTER, \$6782.46 from Matter

7

MARBLE & METAL

Marble is having a massive moment so we just had to highlight more of it. These gorgeous accent pieces for the living area (or any room for that matter) have metallic embellishments that double the shine.

Hackney marble cocktail table, \$998, & Marble wall-mounted shelf, \$119.95, (both order upon request), from CB2



8

SMALL TALK

Light can change the mood and also make an enlightening statement. Especially these LED conversation starters with four interchangeable messages.

Lighthink_Boxes, price upon application from Seletti



9

DOUBLE IMAGE

Mirrors advocate the flow of light but the Backstage mirror designed by Salvatore Indriolo does more than project light. It slides left or right to reveal the generous and adjustable compartments for bathroom or vanity essentials.

Horm.it

10

WALL ART

This reminds us of old-fashioned pixel fun but most of all, we can see the brilliant tones making rooms bloom. Best used sparingly for a feature wall, as too much can be a tad overwhelming.

Night Flower wallpaper, \$219.97 per 10 metres from Milton & King



11

MOBILE GARDEN

Plants can refresh a home in the most delightful ways. Have your succulents displayed on a trolley to catch the best rays and to save on room too.

House Doctor



12

TILE LUSTRE

When choosing wall tiles for your kitchen or bathroom, go for something with a bit more sheen. It'll help reflect a wider expanse of space, creating a brighter and more inviting ambience.

Bulevar tile collection, \$4.50 per square feet from Hafary



13

GLOSSY FINISHES

Can't afford real wood or natural stone? Never mind; these glossy laminates will be a budget-friendly and more versatile application than the real deal. Install it as a luxurious carpentry finish – no one can tell the difference anyway.

Vera Florentina Marble and Bianco Marble Uassiq series, price upon application from Lamitak

14

FURNITURE FOCUS

Yes, even furniture can be a focal point. The simple-looking Moony cabinet, a play on different phases of moonlight streaming through its doors, was created by Japanese architect Toyo Ito, as a tribute to nature.

Horm.it



15

DESIGN LUMINAIRE

First look and you might not even register this structurally astounding piece as a light fixture. The brass exterior and industrial-looking grid bring out a strictly decorative factor. Its backstory is that it is assembled by hand and its creator Philippe Malouin likes handmade things that don't look handmade.

Gridlock Scone-193, \$2851.49 from Matter

16

SOFT HIGHLIGHT

Recessed lighting is a great option to highlight certain areas of the room. The halo-like glow casts a gentle aura and in this case, you can even have it emulate the look of a small window opening.

Marburger Tapetenfabrik



17



SHOCK FACTOR

Neon tones carry an electrifying style factor so make use of it to bring excitement into the humdrum areas of your home. It could simply be servingware with a splash of neon to spruce up a white table, or an artwork for a plain wall.

Neon pink salad bowl, \$164.46. Wind and Willow Home (Etsy)



BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND

Project and reflect light with these pendant lamps and their sleek mirror finish.

(L-R) House Doctor Ellipse lamp, Circle Lamp & Cube Lamp, \$310 each from Journey East

19



STANDING STORAGE

Made of powder coated steel sheet, this 6kg standing lamp showcases all your reading material in good light.

SL29 LEFT or RIGHT lamp designed by Julian Appelius. \$135.66 at Konstantin Slawinski



Getty Images

cooling OFF

With the warm months upon us, we check out the ways you can keep your homes cool and comfortable

TEXT Ho Pei Ying & Felicia Tan



DYSON COOL DESK FAN AM06 *from \$399*

Bladeless fans have been in the market for quite a while now, but we still can't get over how futuristic they look. This model by Dyson comes with 10 airflow settings and is fairly adjustable so you can better direct the airflow.

FANS

Fans don't take up very much energy, which means they don't cost a lot to run. But keep in mind that there are many choices out there, so choose one that best suits your needs and the layout of your home. Other factors to consider before purchasing: fan speeds, oscillation patterns, operational user-friendliness, remote control access, and noise generation.

- **PEDESTAL** The most conventional of choices, the pedestal, or standing fan, offers better air circulation than their counterparts by nature of their design.
- **TABLE/DESK** For small rooms and users who require a fan that is mobile.
- **TOWER** Sleeker in terms of design, tower fans take up less room than pedestals. They sometimes double as air purifiers, ionisers or humidifiers.



RELITE FLYER

CEILING FAN \$599

Its selling point? Energy efficiency. This ceiling fan consumes between 4 – 35W of energy. The best part though, is its steampunk-style folded blades.



Getty Images

- **CEILING** Maximises air circulation in the room and can sometimes be installed with lighting. Usually requires electrical work to install them.
- **WALL** Like the ceiling fan, the wall fan doesn't take up floor space. Choose this if you already have ceiling lights in place but still want to keep your floor free.
- **MISTING** More suited for outdoor environments since they spray water as they cool.
- **AIR CIRCULATOR** More effective in circulating air than regular fans, they have built-in technology and mechanics that generate more powerful airflow that can go a longer distance.
- **BLADELESS** The main advantage of bladeless fans over regular fans goes beyond aesthetics and safety. It creates a smoother flow of air, as air is continuously drawn in through the hidden blades (they are not really bladeless) and channelled out in a constant manner. Smoother air, cooler air.



EUROPAGE EJF JET

TURBINE FAN 125P \$199

Employing jet turbine technology, this air circulator is able to move air up to 29m. It's encased with a spiral grill, which better circulates air throughout the room.



TEFAL HARMONY

IONIC STAND FAN \$89.90

Besides working as a regular fan, the pedestal comes with an ionic mode that releases negative ions said to absorb positive particles like dust, dirt and pollen to project cleaner air.

HITACHI RAM-68Q9

from \$2,929

Within this cooling machine is a nano titanium wasabi air purifying filter, which is coated with a layer of wasabi particles said to have a powerful antibacterial, anti-mould, anti-allergen and deodorising effect.



AIR CONDITIONING

Air conditioning comes in inverter or non-inverter types. An inverter unit operates using a variable compressor, so it constantly readjusts itself to the environment and changing occupancy. With that, you get a more consistent and comfortable temperature with minimal fluctuations.

A non-inverter, on the other hand, operates either at full capacity or none at all. It undergoes a stop-and-start mechanism, stopping when it reaches its limit and starting again when the temperature in the room goes up. This means that the cool breeze you first experience when you switch your air conditioning on is not standardised throughout your usage.

While it's one of the more effective ways to cool your home down, air conditioning can cost a pretty penny. Inverters are priced higher in the market but they tend to consume less power since they don't endure stop-and-start repetitions. Nonetheless, significant savings in energy and costs over the long run depend very much on usage, so do your research (and calculations) before making a decision.

Besides inverters and non-inverters, air conditioning can come in split versions. Split air conditioning comprises an outdoor unit housing the compressor and condenser which is kept separated from the indoor

unit consisting of the cooling coil and filters. Multi-splits are units that have more than one indoor unit using a single external compressor. If you can't install split air conditioning for various reasons, you might want to go for portable air conditioning or window units where installation is minimal, if any.



tip!

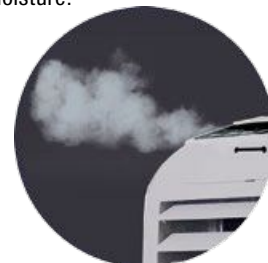
For maximum efficiency, check your filters regularly. They tend to build up dirt and grime over time, which prevents air from flowing.

HONEYWELL MM14CCS PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER \$549.95

Great for individual rooms since it covers up to a space of 500 square feet, this portable device not only cools but also dehumidifies.

EVAPORATIVE AIR COOLER

They may look like portable air conditioning units, but make no mistake – they don't work the same way. Unlike air conditioning which uses refrigerants and compressors to cool air, these devices harness the power of evaporation to provide cooling. It first draws hot air in, then passes this air over moistened pads, cooling it down. The cooled air is channelled back out to bring down the temperature of the room. For them to be really effective however, they would need hot, dry air, so they might not be the best choice in our humid weather where air molecules are already heavily saturated with moisture.





**HUNTER DOUGLAS DUETTE
ARCHITELLA HONEYCOMB SHADES**

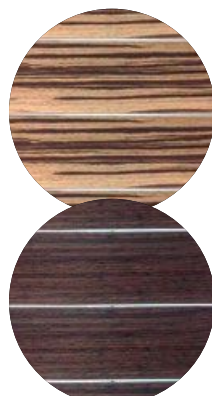
These are no ordinary shades – they're designed to trap air within their insulating pockets to help keep your home cool in the hot months! Plus you get to control how shady you want your home to be, all from the comfort of your smartphone or tablet.

SUN REPELLENT

Don't just protect your windows from the sun, protect your walls too! If you're living in a landed home that permits you to paint the exterior of your house, you might want to consider Nippon Paint's SolaReflect. It's an exterior wall paint that reduces heat build-up by reflecting solar energy off the surface of the wall. The paint company claims that the product can reduce indoor temperature by up to five degrees Celsius, which can be pretty significant as it decreases the overall energy required to cool your home down. The paint comes in a wide variety of colours too, so your home can look just as beautiful as it is cool.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

When it comes to keeping the heat out of your home, window treatments can work wonders when used alongside cooling devices to keep your environment comfortable. Unlike mechanical devices like air conditioning and fans, they don't use up energy at all. But with so many options out there, what should you go for? That depends largely on the characteristics of the window treatments themselves. So whether you're going for shades, blinds or films, select one that is meant to keep out the heat rather than those that are simply decorative. We shortlist three for you to consider.



**AKONI TIMBER
SERIES BLINDS**

Not only stylish looking, timber blinds are great insulators to keep a room cool in warm weather.

**3M WINDOW
PRESTIGE FILM**

This solar film rejects up to 97 per cent of infrared heat from the sun and has an SPF value of over 1,000 to block out 99.9 per cent of UV rays.



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SPiN

NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

Here are 8 things to do when you visit the country's latest architectural wonder, which will open its doors to the public at the end of this year

TEXT Ho Pei Ying
PHOTOS National Gallery Singapore, studioMilou and Darren Soh



1 FEEL THE SHANGHAI PLASTER when you're outside. The former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings are one of only a few monuments in Singapore with this facade finish, which was why extensive restoration work was done to preserve it. And the project team was careful to retain the original look. Cement and granite aggregate in-fill were used to repair superficial damage after ensuring a near perfect match in terms of colour and texture. The facade was then cleaned by water jet, a gentle technique to preserve the original patina.

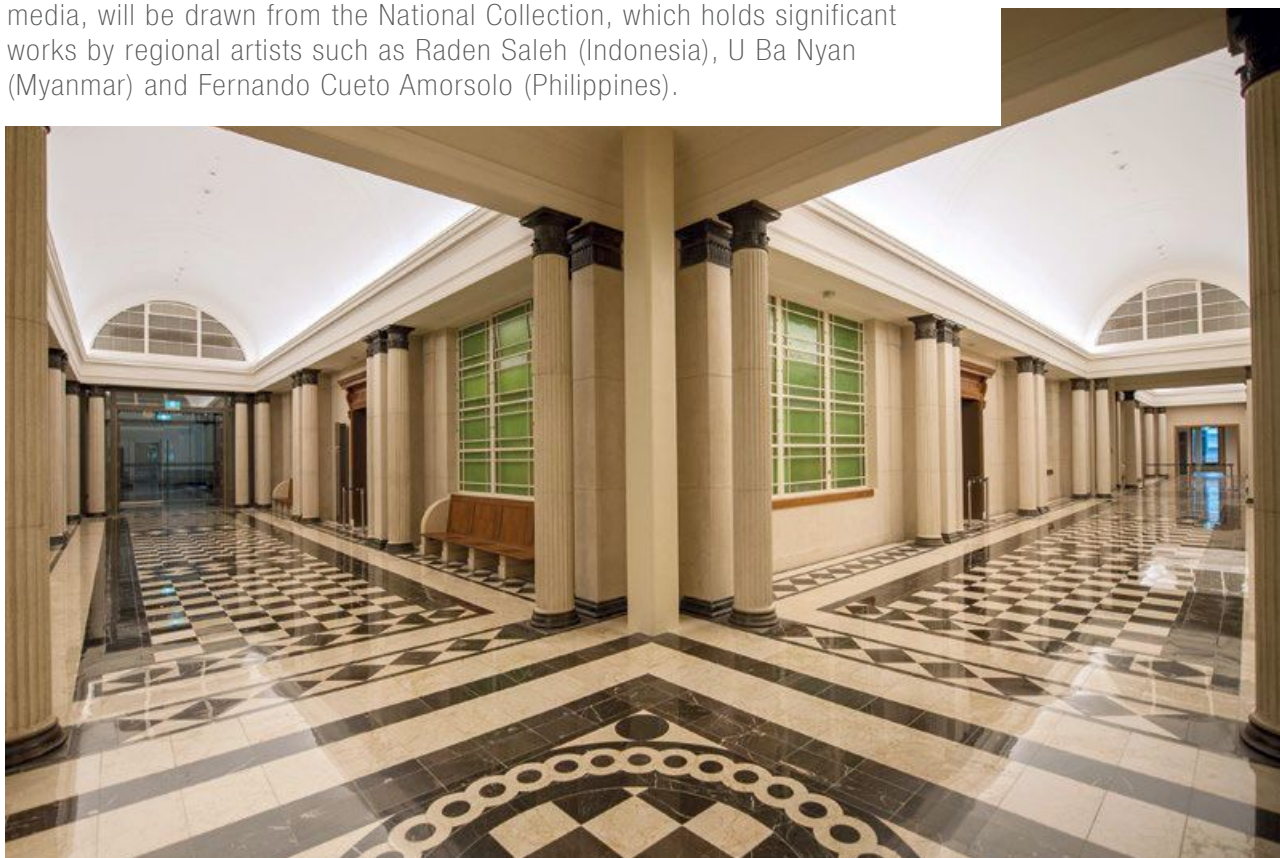
2

Image courtesy of Alexandra Lerman



3 GET A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE in the Singtel Special Exhibition Gallery. Spanning a total floor area of 20,000 square feet, this double volume zone will see an average of two international shows per year, with each running for about three to four months. The inaugural exhibition will host a collaboration between The Gallery and Centre Pompidou in Paris, and is set to look at modern art from 1900 to 1960. It will display works by the likes of Picasso, Kandinsky and Chagall alongside Southeast Asian artists.

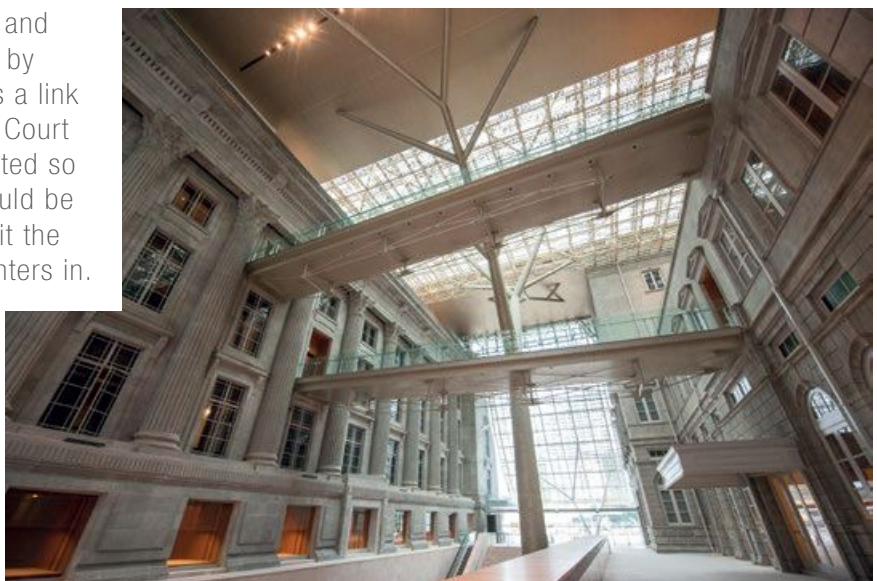
Travel back in time through The Gallery's two permanent exhibitions – the DBS Singapore Gallery and UOB Southeast Asia Gallery. The former will feature Singapore art from the 19th century to present day, while the latter will showcase artworks in the same period but with a broader focus by looking at Southeast Asia. The pieces, comprising paintings and alternative artistic media, will be drawn from the National Collection, which holds significant works by regional artists such as Raden Saleh (Indonesia), U Ba Nyan (Myanmar) and Fernando Cueto Amorsolo (Philippines).

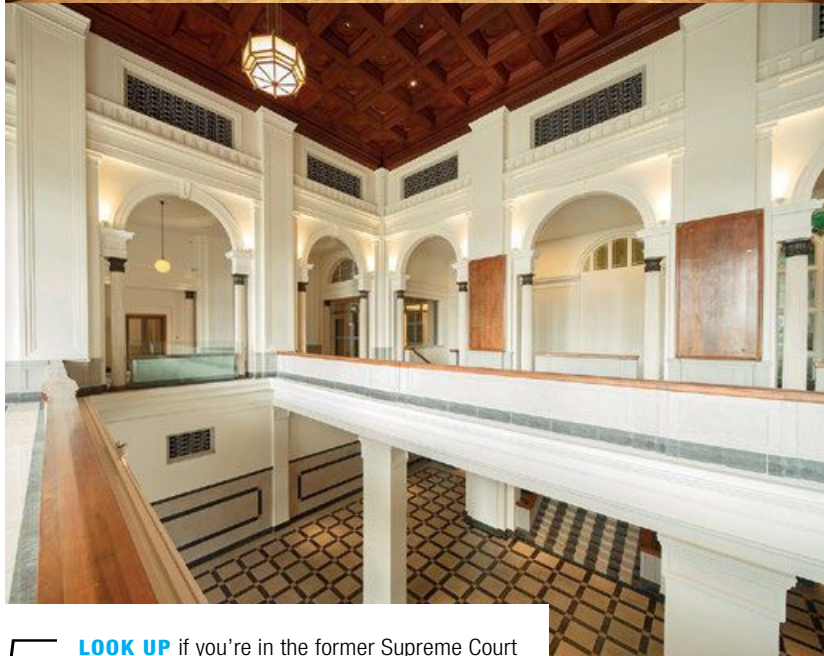




Bask in the daylight at the atrium, which features a gorgeous roof canopy made from glass and steel. The space is supported by tree-like columns, and acts as a link between the former Supreme Court and City Hall. It was also created so that the existing entrances could be retained without the need to fit the information and ticketing counters in.

4

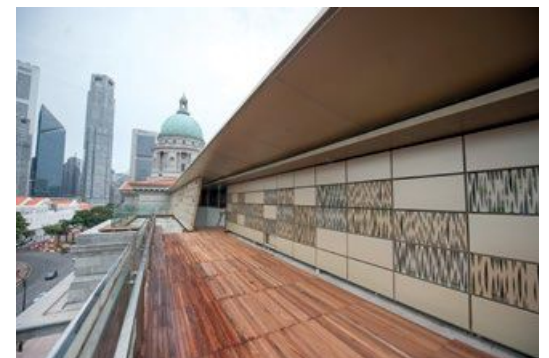




5 LOOK UP if you're in the former Supreme Court building because the ceiling fixtures of the lobby and courtrooms are perhaps the most intricately designed details within the monument. In the courtrooms, the teak timber ceilings in the courtrooms are made up of approximately 150 hexagonal panels, joined together with the same number of square panels. In the original construction, all the screw holes were plugged in with timber dowels so that the metal screws would remain invisible. The lobby features similar ceilings made from teak timber, although they show off a boxier silhouette, which earned them the affectionate nickname "waffle" among the designers.



6 STAND IN AWE of the City Hall Chamber, one of the most magnificent spaces in The Gallery. The architecturally rich space sees original marble clad columns with their bronze capitals and bases looming tall amidst timber walls, brass railings and elaborately designed cornices and ceilings. It's also a container of memories; the Chamber witnessed the formal surrender of the Japanese during WWII and was also where the first Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Kuan Yew was sworn in.



7 WINE AND DINE at the restaurants and cafes in the rooftop terrace while enjoying the spectacular sights of the city skyline at the rooftop bars. One of the confirmed F&B outlets is the highly-anticipated Aura, a fine dining Italian restaurant with an entire raw bar serving fresh seafood on ice.

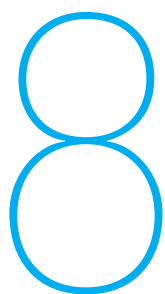
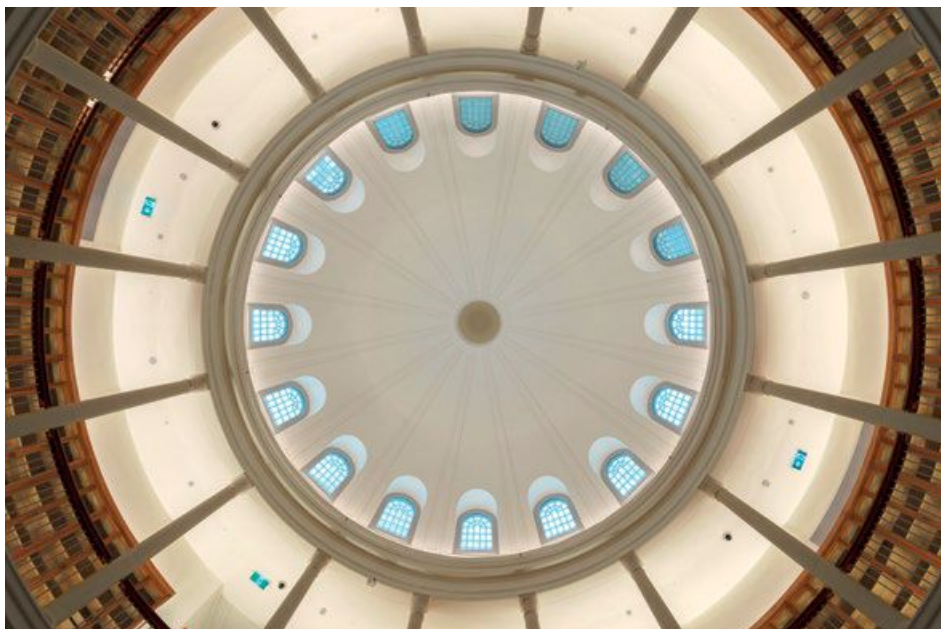
“Rather than view the conservation guidelines as limitations to design, I saw the opportunity to design something spectacular while minimising architectural interventions on the historically significant monuments.”

Jean Francois Milou, Lead Architect of studioMilou S'pore

SENSATIONALS

“*The rotunda is now returned to its original glory, with all the new interventions kept away from sight.*”

Tan Hooi Ong, Vice President (Architecture) of CPG Consultants



Relive history

when you drop by the rotunda library, which used to be a law library before it became a police post when the growing book collection

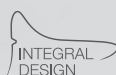
was moved to the City Hall. All the existing furniture including the chairs, benches, tables and bookshelves were specially designed for this space by William Swaffield – who also crafted the furniture in the Istana – and were kept as part of the new Gallery. The only thing that was changed here was the cork flooring, which was replaced with timber tiles but set in the same radial herringbone pattern. The library sits under a minor dome and will be part of the Southeast Asia gallery. There are also plans to turn it into a resource area where visitors can browse through archival materials.





Gentle beauty

KLUDI AMBA is the very essence of a new aesthetic style. Softer contours and intuitive operation define the complete line of taps and accessories. Its sculptural appearance with sensory qualities and the unique KLUDI IntegralDesign make it simply uniquely beautiful.



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Singapore 329883
Tel: 6253 4655

Sansei
462 Tagore Industrial Ave
Singapore 787831
Tel: 6292 8321

● KLUDI ●

WARM *welcome*

Despite its extensive size, this sprawling family home for four still manages to feel cosy and inviting

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS Ganna Studio

Apartments in Taipei, particularly in the city centre, aren't very big, which was why we were surprised to learn that this one stands at more than 2,000 square feet.

The interior design team at Ganna Studio who took up the job later revealed that the home is actually made up of two units joined into one. The construction was such a massive undertaking that it took up to a year to get everything ready for the Lu family – comprising a retired couple and their two adult daughters – to move in.

Some of the major work done included combining the entrances into a single doorway,

TWO-IN-ONE

The home is so large because it was originally made up of two separate units. There are many things going for it here, and an open-plan concept was chosen to avoid spatial congestion.





4 BEDROOM
APARTMENT | 2,206^{sq} | ⌚ RENO PERIOD
12 MONTHS | 📍 TAIPEI,
TAIWAN



DINING AREA

Mixing individual dining chairs with a customised dining bench makes room for more people, a necessity as the family frequently hosts guests and dines in together.

knocking down the walls inside for open-plan living, and re-routing the traffic circulation throughout the house so that it was more circular and less disruptive.

Style-wise, the team went for classic country. Timeless furniture pieces – which the homeowners already owned – were set against a soothing palette of neutral colours and warm woods. Adding to the bucolic charm are white French doors separating the different functions of the home, and a grey faux brick wall that stretches from the foyer to the dining area.

Because it is so spacious, there was room to create additional communal areas. A spot for exercise and a leisure nook were thus eked



LIVING ROOM

The living room is an expansive space, dominated by plenty of wood surfaces and classic furniture pieces like the centrepiece – a striking mahogany brown tufted leather sofa. A decorative fireplace lends a country-style charm that the homeowners requested for.

SPACES



**Magis Deja-vu
Stool from XTRA**

DRY KITCHEN (left)

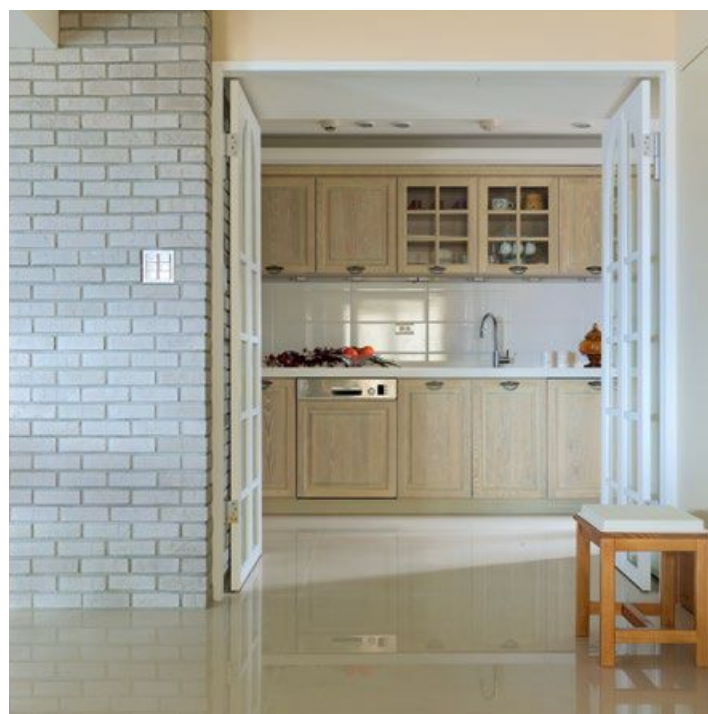
Suited for preparing light meals and desserts, the dry kitchen also doubles as the breakfast counter. At the side of the kitchen island, plywood strips are decked out for visual interest and an open shelf accommodates for more dining ware.

WET KITCHEN (below)

As the family cooks often, it was necessary to have separate wet and dry kitchen areas. Cooking fumes are kept away from the living spaces through white French doors, also used in the rest of the home to demarcate the spaces.

out from the corners of the house. Other communal spaces include the dining area, nestled in a cosy alcove just beside the dry kitchen (the sen wood-dominated wet kitchen is ferreted away behind closed doors just next to it). The family often has guests over, so a close proximity with the food prep station was deemed necessary. A cushioned bench for the dining table was also customised with the guests in mind.

In the centre of the living room is a structure made from teak. One side serves as the TV wall, while the other actually stores shoes. It also acts as a divider between the common spaces and daughters' sleeping quarters. Both women have very different personalities and they wanted their bedrooms





WALK-IN WARDROBE

A part of the spacious master bedroom was carved out to create a walk-in wardrobe, separated from the main room by bifold sliding doors. The closet has both open and closed compartments to meet different needs.

SPACES

LEISURE NOOK

(below)

Just outside the daughters' bedrooms is a leisure nook that can be cordoned off from the hallway with a sliding room divider for added privacy.

REST & RELAX

(right)

There's everything here to make it conducive for relaxing: a comfy couch, cushion-filled bay window area, and cosy atmosphere thanks to warm alcove lights.





TRIPLE DUTY

(left)

The customised headboard of the eldest daughter's bed acts as a bedside table and features concealed storage within. The simple design reflects the minimalism in the rest of the room.

to reflect who they are, which was why the designers gave the rooms different hues. The eldest daughter chose a cheery yellow for her boudoir, while the younger daughter went for a quixotic plum shade.

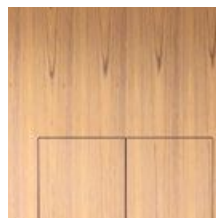
Their parents' bedroom was positioned at the other end of the house so that both sets of occupants could have more privacy. Here, an adjoining boutique-style walk-in wardrobe not only provides ample storage but also adds a feel of exclusivity to the room.

The home certainly doesn't feel at all cold and unfriendly, despite the large square footage. The country charm, warm wood tones, comfortable furniture and the purposeful nooks and crannies certainly make this a cosy abode for the family of four.

MATERIALS



DINING ROOM WALL
Cultured stone



TV WALL
Teak wood



WET KITCHEN CABINETS
Sen wood



HDB 3 ROOM FLAT | 968 sqf | RENO PERIOD 3 MONTHS | BUDGET \$70K WITHOUT FURNISHINGS | HOME TO 2 PEOPLE



SECOND *awakening*

The most dramatic point in the renovation of this 20-year-old resale unit was not that everything was gutted; but a newly configured bathroom that made a world of a difference

TEXT Disa Tan PHOTOS Artist Room

OVERALL
Looking more like a chic studio apartment than a humble two-bedroom flat, the modern loft style bestows this resale unit with a visual upsize in space. Adding texture, colour and more character to the home for two are the green mosaic tiles, woodgrain accents and an exposed sliding track. Without these stylish design elements, the modern white canvas would look flat and cold.

What's there to suggest when you have little room to play with? Though this tiny HDB flat affords few ways to configure space, its appointed design team from Artist Room had big plans. They looked past its narrow layout, worn-out condition, and the fact that it only has one bathroom. All it needed were the right cosmetic touches to look as good as new. Fortunately, the homeowner was on board with a clean-cut style as the bachelorette herself was not a fan of loud design elements and clutter. With both designer and homeowner on the same page looking to carve out a modern and clutter-free haven, the renovation was off to a promising start.

SPACES



Industrial dining
table from [ghify.com](#)

COMMUNAL SPACES (below)

Merging the kitchen and living zones went beyond having the same homogeneous floor tiles and a shared cabinet fixture. The designers noticed the kitchen's ceiling was lower so they flushed the living area's ceiling with the cooking space. Besides offering a seamless effect, the slightly lowered ceiling hides all the unsightly wiring in the living area.

During the overhaul, the team was the most excited about altering the layout of the single bathroom. The classic 'open-concept bathroom' might immediately come to mind, but these ambitious designers really wanted to up their game. Since the bachelorette has to share this area with her tenant, they had to factor in privacy issues. Addressing this concern turned out to become the home's highlight: a communal bathroom with separate wet zones. Says Mark Chen, the team's project consultant: "We thought it was really different to incorporate two back-facing sinks, instead of the usual double sinks. Creating two new entrances, one from the service yard and another from the master bedroom, also really opens up this space."

With this versatile bathroom system in place, the team proposed other fresh changes to bring the dated-looking home back to 2015. Save for the enclosed toilet and shower stall, the





entire home is laid with 750mmx750mm grey homogeneous tiles. Mark explains that these wider tiles display less grout lines, and therefore lend a more spacious and uniformed appeal to the entire space. True enough, when teamed with the whitewashed walls, the home does appear larger than its 968 of square footage. The former swing-in bedroom doors were then replaced with sliding doors in favour of its space-minimising ways. Aesthetically, these new woodgrain patterned doors improve the look and serve as a warm visual

contrast to the cool white walls. The designers opted for an exposed track, as opposed to a hidden one, to add more texture and character to the living space.

The woodgrain patterns also make an appearance as laminate finishes on the kitchen cabinetry. It complements the sliding doors fittingly and highlights the fact that the cooking space has been integrated with the living area. After hacking away the boundary wall, the designers installed a cabinet fixture which literally covers almost the

LIVING *(above)*

Once the boundary wall between the living and kitchen was taken down, the designers merged both areas to make the best of the long and narrow layout. They sealed the deal with an elongated cabinet fixture, which embraces the two zones with its dual-functionality as storage and a counter base.

SPACES

DRY BATHROOM

For the homeowner and her tenant to enjoy their own private space in the shared bathroom, the designers conceptualised back-to-back sinks.

The cleverly-separated vanities allow the two occupants to use the dry area at the same time and at their own pace.



“ We modelled the re-configured bathroom after the homeowner’s needs and preferences. She requested for her own private space and preferred muted shades. In the end, we found it to be very ‘her’! ”

Mark Chen, Project Consultant, Artist Room



MASTER BEDROOM

(left)

A secret door was created towards the en suite bathroom. When closed, it is flush with the walls and is subtly hidden with its whitewashed finish. The existing bedroom layout did not provide direct access to the bathroom so the designers worked it in for the homeowner to have her own semi-private bathroom.

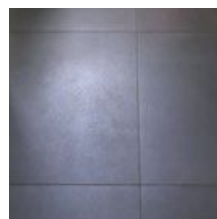
WET AREAS

(bottom, left)

Enclosed with frosted glass doors, the toilet and shower stall are outfitted in different tiles of a light, sandy tone. The change in tiles indicates a visual demarcation between the wet zones and the main dry area. Also seen here is the other bathroom entrance from the service yard.



MATERIALS



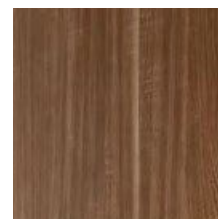
BATHROOM FLOOR

750mmx750mm homogeneous tiles from Milano Ecru



KITCHEN AND BATHROOM WALL TILES

Green mosaic tiles from Bisazza Mosaics



SLIDING DOORS

Sierra Oak Granada laminate from Lamitak

entire width of the newly merged living-kitchen area. Serving as the TV console at the living zone, the laminate fixture in a matte white finish trails down towards the kitchen as a counter base with pull-out drawers.

Adding lustre and colour to the cool white and soothing brown hues in the communal zones is the dark green tile backsplash. The

striking mosaic tiles serve as form of visual demarcation for the open-concept kitchen from the living area. For design consistency, they also serve as a backsplash for the bathroom vanities. This was the final design breakthrough the designers were pursuing as they reckoned the space would look too flat and dull with the same old design details.

CREATIVE *collaboration*

*Bouncing ideas off each other, the homeowners
and their designer had a great time
conceptualising this novel and open abode*

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying PHOTOS Justin Loh
STYLING Ho Pei Ying and Yuen Yi Ying

HDB 5 ROOM FLAT | 1,200 sqft | BUDGET \$100K WITH BUILT-IN FURNISHINGS | HOME TO 3 PEOPLE & 2 DOGS | 9 TELOK BLANGAH



BIG IDEA

Tearing down the entrance walls created a really roomy corridor.

The space risked looking big, bare and boring, so Alex and the plumber hand-twisted pipes to create the kooky lighting fixtures on the ceiling.

SPACES





Proposing big ideas to a homeowner can be daunting for designers, but Alex Kwan of CHALK had a hunch his clients would be receptive to his unique concept that blends a variety of styles. “It all started with a Lego table the couple wanted,” he tells us. “It’s not your typical dining table, so when they told me about it, I thought they were quite fun and open-minded, and I decided to be more adventurous with this project.”

It helped that the couple, who discovered the designer through magazines, were also very trusting and forthcoming with ideas. They showed Alex a moodboard of what they wanted – something current, airy, flexible, neat and comfortable. They wanted their place

to have as little furniture as possible and be quite low-maintenance as well.

Since the only occupants here are the owners and their two Birman cats, Alex suggested knocking down the walls along the wide corridor, making the space look doubly big. When the couple does want to close off areas, full-height sliding wooden doors can be pulled out to block off the master bedroom and dressing space.

Departing from the norm, the couple decided to relocate their bedroom across the hallway, setting up a TV on the opposite wall so they could watch it in bed. Alex fixed up some wardrobe space here and gave them additional storage under the raised platform so they could pack away their belongings and

LIVING ROOM

(above)

To get the look they wanted, the couple mixed and matched pieces they found online and on their travels to Korea and Australia. Alex built them a rather high bay window seat with storage that the cats love to climb onto and where the owners can sit and read or enjoy the views.

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

(opposite page)

Designated storage for their essentials keeps everything here neat and tidy.





Muuto Unfold lamp

DRESSING ROOM

This houses the couple's extensive collection of fashion accessories and beauty products. It's painted white like the rest of the apartment as the couple wanted something that would be easy to touch up with just one type of paint. The pair also asked Alex to create a concrete screed floor in lighter tone to match the walls, something he hadn't done before. Alex shared that adding too much white cement to the mix could make the flooring crack more easily, but the duo were willing to take the risk.

maintain the clean and breezy look.

A multipurpose room where the husband works and where the wife runs her online beauty business is probably the most unique area in this house. It looks like a quaint shop space with her goods displayed neatly on one side and his sea sports gear hung neatly on the other. In the middle is the custom-made Lego table that sparked it all.

Alex tailored the table frame so the wife had a convenient assembly area for wrapping her packages. The couple also use this moveable piece as a dining table or bar when friends come over. Inspired by a Lego conference table they'd seen, this colourful island was a must for the pair, who put the tabletop together over the course of four days. Under the glass top, you can see cute details the duo added, including Star Wars Minifigures and a bicycle, which show off their interests.

The initial plan was to section off this area with glass, but Alex felt a collapsible gate would look nicer. To get the right dimensions, he had to order it from Malaysia and then painted it white to blend with the look of the house.

Across, Alex ate into part of the former

SPACES





BATHROOM (left)

There's shelving on every wall, which the couple use to put an assortment of scented soaps and candles.

KITCHEN (opposite page)

The green chalkboard paint was a good choice as it makes the kitchen look brighter and more welcoming. It's now a cheerier space for the wife to indulge in her baking hobby!

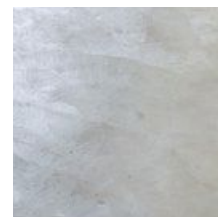
dining area to create a walkway that would link two back-to-back bathrooms. Instead of a wall, he set up rows of louvered windows as an added visual detail and to improve ventilation. The owners laughingly shared that guests sometimes feel awkward using the bathroom because the windows aren't fully opaque, but they reassure them that those standing outside can't really make out what's going on within.

In the adjoining kitchen, the couple wanted to include a pegboard to hang cutlery and assorted ingredients. Installing one seemed "pretty easy" from photos they'd seen online, but the couple soon realised it's not that straightforward to get pegboards with the right-sized holes. The ones available couldn't accommodate the sturdier hooks they needed, so Alex ended up customising

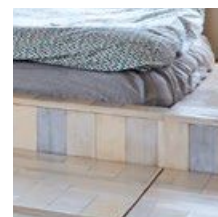
one just for them. Further inside, tall cabinets stash away laundry equipment and other household items, creating a streamlined space. The couple thought it'd be nice to cover them in chalkboard paint, but opted for green instead of ubiquitous black for a pop of colour.

With this project, Alex had one concern: there was no designated space for their future brood, something most newlyweds would ask for. However, the couple reassured him that they were fine with that and were happy with the results. "The house has to fit our present lifestyle very well, and this turned out in line with our vision. Alex has amazing style and was a joy to work with. He completed the place ahead of schedule and everything looks exactly like his renderings!"

MATERIALS



FLOORING
Concrete screed



BEDROOM
PLATFORM
Plywood stained in
various white



KITCHEN
CABINETS
MDF board in green
chalkboard paint

SPACES



HDB 5 ROOM FLAT | 1,200 sqf | RENO PERIOD 7 WEEKS | BUDGET \$30K EXCLUSIVE OF FURNISHINGS | HOME TO 9 TAMPINES



CUSTOM *haven*

The hands-on owners and designers collaborated closely to create a home that oozes personality

TEXT Cara Wong PHOTOS Z L Construction

Home to a pair of newlyweds, the colourful and texture abode is testament to the couple's artsy and meticulous nature – even before the renovation, they'd already picked out most of their furniture. And while that meant that they didn't have to scramble to find things they love, the challenge of putting it all together for a unique but united look fell on the shoulders of designers Lewis Chee and Jake Yeow of Z L Construction.

In the living room, a custom feature wall draws attention as soon as one enters the apartment. According to Jake, creating this showpiece was no easy feat as the owners had a very specific idea of the rustic look that they wanted it to have. The duo even paid attention to the condition of each individual brick block,

COMMUNAL ZONES

Though the living, dining and kitchen share the open-plan layout, each area is clearly demarcated by distinctive design details. The cooking quarters boasts a gorgeous ceramic tile backsplash as a striking focal point, while the living and dining areas are represented by a wrap-around CraftStone feature.

SPACES



**Santral pendent
chandelier by Luci Italiane**

LIGHTING *(right)*

Black hanging wires
and curvy dining chairs
make an interesting
juxtaposition against
streamlined forms.



*“The feature wall had to look
rustic without too many
distinct crack lines, so we did a
tile-for-tile replacement until
we got the right look.”*

Jake Yeow, designer

but their efforts paid off in the end as the stone wall is now their pride and joy. They love how its angular design allows it to be admired from every angle, perfect for when the two have guests over.

In light of the fact that the pair frequently hosts family functions, Lewis and Jake had the partition wall between the kitchen and dining area demolished to establish a more spacious and airy area. This creates a second function of allowing more natural light to permeate



KITCHEN

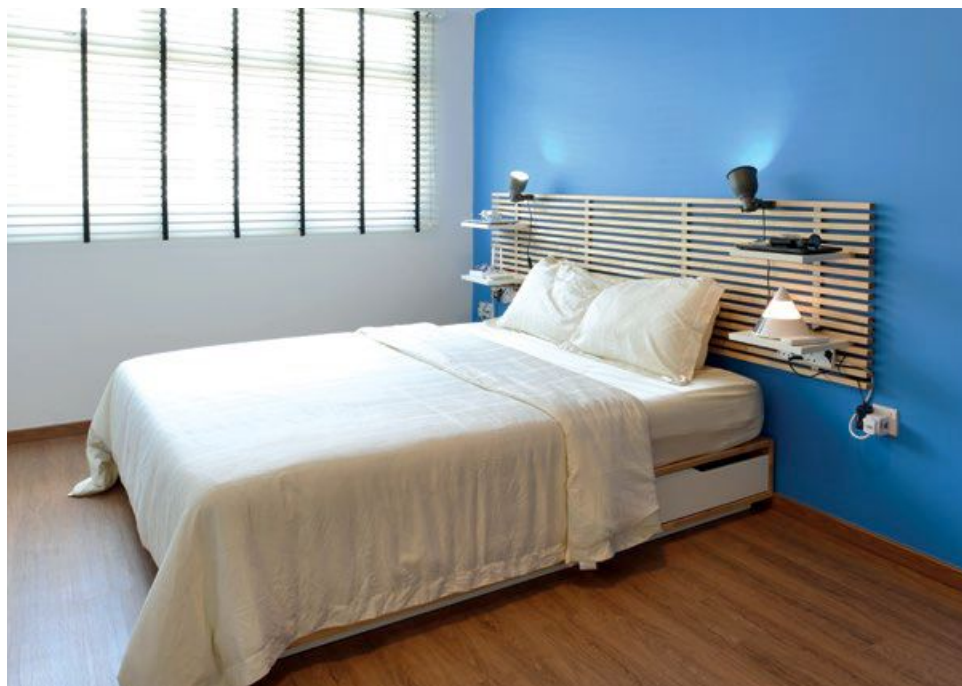
(left)

Touches of black on the lights, shelving, counter and exposed plumbing evoke a stronger design outline.

MASTER BEDROOM

(below)

The room was kept simple, accented by a blue feature wall and unique headboard that the owners picked out.

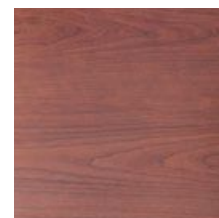


MATERIALS



FEATURE WALL

Brick veneer from CraftStone



KITCHEN CABINETS

Laminate from Formica

the kitchen, highlighting the ceramic patterned tiles on the wall. The tiles were a suggestion by the designers who were inspired by the wife's Nonya ancestry.

To round off the subtle Peranakan theme in the kitchen, Lewis and Jake chose dark red tones for the kitchen cabinetry, reminiscent of traditional rosewood furniture often found in Peranakan homes.

In contrast, the living room was kept mainly white. This serves to bring out the vibrant hues

of the couples' collection of artwork and furniture. Faced with two contesting hues in the kitchen and living room, the designers decided to paint the front of the feature wall in a peachy beige tone. "This helps to prevent the reddish tones of the kitchen from becoming too jarring as the beige helps to visually gel the light and bold hues together," quipped Jake. A suitably orange-based art piece — part of the owners' collection — hangs in the middle of the feature wall, perfectly complementing the gradual colour gradient between the two spaces.

NATURAL *selection*

Understated design touches and beautiful woodgrain accents create a family home that is easy on the eye and maintenance

TEXT Cara Wong PHOTOS The Scientist

With three young daughters in tow, maintaining an uncluttered home that's roomy and stylish at the same time was definitely not easy for this couple. Naturally, this became their request to their designer, Sze Yik from The Scientist. Working on this brief, Sze Yik delivered by weaving in plenty of unobtrusive storage in the many custom-made pieces that fill this flat, creating a chic and highly functional home.

All that extra space came in handy for the kitchen and dining areas, as the family

often entertains. In order to create room for mingling guests, Sze Yik suggested sealing up the existing kitchen entrance, creating a larger portal on an adjoining wall so the kitchen, dining area and foyer lay in a straight line. The new entrance also allows light from the kitchen's windows to penetrate right through the spaces, enlivening the interior.

As the wife cooks regularly, Sze Yik incorporated a clear glass sliding door at the kitchen entrance to contain fumes while maintaining the cooking zone's spacious feel. Within the kitchen, the woodgrain laminates

DINING ZONE

Merging varying styles like the Balinese cage hanging lamp and the simple Scandinavian touches from the woodgrain shelving, this area extends a laidback invite.

HDB 5^{ROOM} FLAT | 1,500^{sqf} | BUDGET \$100K | HOME TO 4 PEOPLE
EXCLUDING FURNISHINGS







COOL TWIST (above)

The white detailing around the console is less common than black and keeps the large piece from looking heavy.

on the cabinetry evoke an industrial feel, a look the husband is fond of. To tie in with the rest of the brightly-lit rooms, the kitchen walls were kept in white tones to prevent the area from looking too dark.

In the dining room, a feature wall doubles as more storage space for the couple's collection of chinaware, many of which were collected from their overseas trips. The cabinetry was clad in light wood tones for a more roomy feel, explains the designer.

The same woodgrains are mirrored

on the floor-to-ceiling TV console in the living room, creating yet another visually striking piece to draw eyes across the hall, elongating the space. It holds the family's assorted memorabilia, photo albums and CDs — essential keepsakes for any family home.

Being avid readers, the couple wished to instill a love for reading in their kids. Thus, for the study, they asked for a large bookshelf that would be able to showcase their extensive collection of over 300 books! Darker wood panelling was chosen for this fixture to match

“The challenge of this reno was in trying to fully utilise every single space in the home, yet maintain its overall spaciousness.”

Sze Yik, designer



About A Stool from Hay

KITCHEN

(left)

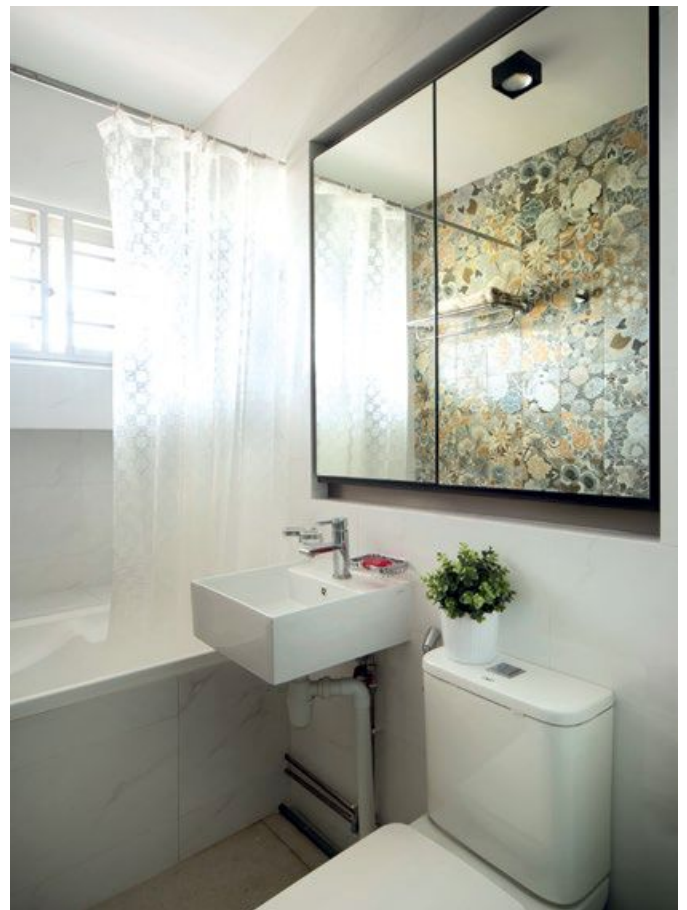
With the new layout, there's more space for food preparation and the added island also doubles up as a breakfast area for the family.

SLIDING DOOR

(above)

Made from clear glass, the sliding door at the kitchen entrance contains cooking fumes when closed and when opened, it keeps the area looking spacious.

SPACES



BATHROOM

(above)

Large mirrors make the patterned tiles appear like they are on two walls.

VANITY

(left)

A simple bench from Comfort Design is an unexpected yet sensible seating choice for this space.



ROOM FOR MORE

With the entire wall dedicated to book storage and other workstation amenities, this study area has room for more than 300 books!

SPACES



KITCHEN CABINETS

(left)
The laminates chosen for the kitchen cabinets coupled with the black trimmings evoke an industrial feel to this space.

FOYER

(below)
Patterned floor tiles demarcate this zone from the dining area, while a custom-built full-height cabinet accommodates the five occupants' footwear.



the slightly reddish tones of the parquet floor, and geometric wire-frame lighting was selected to complete the look of the room.

Adding to the count of bespoke fixtures in this home is the vanity table in the master bedroom. This was built for the wife to store her makeup, perfume, jewellery and other small accessories. Hidden fluorescent tubes atop and below the mirror illuminate the otherwise dark corner.

When the couple wanted to buy pieces for the house, extra effort was put in to communicate the colour, concept and design with Sze Yik to ensure everything would go well together. But this was well worth the trouble as the result turned out splendidly, with every item blending nicely into the simple yet stylish home.

MATERIALS



KITCHEN CABINET
Laminate from Admiria



KITCHEN WALL
Matte subway tiles from Hafary



BATHROOM WALL
Homogeneous patterned tiles from Hafary



SQUAREROOMS
HOME
SEARCH
 MY RENO · MY STYLE · MY HOME
 2015

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 your home by 16 August 2015 to win.



a relaxing oasis

Make the bathroom the best part of your home with Geberit's flexible and fuss-free range of remote flush actuator plates and CleanLine shower channels



Ah, bathrooms. They are the private sanctuaries we retreat to every day and the part of the house where we perform the most intimate of our daily routines. Having a great bathroom is therefore imperative for every home. But what makes a great bathroom? For Geberit, the market leader in sanitary technology, it's one that is not only functional and gorgeous, but also reflects who you are and makes you feel completely at ease. It is also one that you don't have to worry over!

Geberit has recently introduced a new range of remote flush actuator plates and CleanLine shower channels that may just help you achieve that dream bathroom. If there's only one thing you should know about them, it's that they're extremely versatile in terms of placement and design. But that's not all – they are also really easy to install and maintain, giving you an overall bathroom experience that is truly stress-free.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Conventionally, flush actuator plates are installed directly in front of the cistern for plumbing reasons, but Geberit's remote flush actuators allow you to position them anywhere you like – just as long as they're within 2m from the cistern.

For the CleanLine shower channels, choose to place them near the wall (as a wall



Geberit's new Type 70 remote flush actuator plate



drainage system) or in the middle of the shower area. You can also cut them to any length during installation to fit your space.

KEEPING IT DISCREET

Design-wise, both products are sleek, subtle and stylish – perfect for modern bathrooms. The pneumatic-operated (using air pressure rather than electricity) Type 01 and Type 10 remote flush actuators come in a simple, round design and are available in a variety of materials and finishes. The Type 70 ones are rectangular, and are available in either glass or metal, in four colour variants.

Brushed in stainless steel, the CleanLine shower channels blend right to your floor, making them a great option for those going for a floor-even shower – where the shower channel is positioned at the same level as the rest of your bathroom surfaces, giving the space a clean and neat look.

EASY SET-UP

Fixing the remote flush actuators on drywalls or solid walls is a really straightforward affair as they have a compact design. Plus, Geberit provides an installation set so you can just follow the simple steps.

Incorporating the CleanLine range is easy too. Unlike regular shower channels which requires an additional step to apply an external sealant, they are already attached with sealing foil, cutting the stress and time needed during the installation. Having the sealing foil as a permanent component also minimises the risk of leaks down the road.

SIMPLE UPKEEP

Having been put through and tested for years of stress, the remote flush actuators and CleanLine range can actually be used for a long time to come. One of the many benefits



CleanLine shower channel



of installing Geberit products is the 25-year guarantee for the spare parts, including the working parts within the Geberit concealed cisterns and flush plates.

Regular cleaning and maintenance of the CleanLine range is simple thanks to the clean-cut exterior which has no hidden edges or difficult-to-reach corners. Plus, the integrated comb insert that traps dirt can be removed and cleaned in no time at all.

The Geberit remote flush actuators and CleanLine shower channels are available at all authorised retail showrooms. For more information, visit www.geberit.com.sg

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INTO THE WOODS

Playing with raw textures can inject a deal of personality, especially when it comes to enlivening a brooding industrial-themed space



FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room HDB flat
SIZE 900 square feet
LOCATION Serangoon Crescent
HOME TO A newlywed couple
DESIGNER Dan Tay from Hue Concept
RENO PERIOD Six weeks

Turning dream homes into reality, Hue Concept is all about delivering a midas touch of design flair to abodes. Elevating style to another level, they also endeavor to create homes of functionality to better the lives of those living in it. So if you're looking for style and substance, you can entrust your living space to the good hands of Hue Concept.

< LIVING AND DINING

Dan kept things interesting by contrasting an eye-catching cement screed wall against the wood ceiling treatment, which was actually achieved with wallpaper. The homeowners put a lot of effort into searching for one-of-a-kind furniture. Many items shown in the dining area were bought off the web, such as the wooden display case and theatre tripod floor lamp which transports us back to the '50s.



#GO GRAPHIC

This balcony was refreshed with intricate patterned tiles and outdoor furniture, making it a cosy reading nook.

^ MASTER BEDROOM

Bright and crisp, this space was kept clutter-free to allow the vintage furnishings to take centre stage. Instead of the typical glass door, Dan installed a sliding barn door that leads out to a beautifully-decorated patio.



^ MAIN BALCONY

To bring in a touch of nature, Dan filled the main balcony with lots of potted greenery and retro rattan pieces. He also introduced a nautical look with roller blinds in maritime blue and white.



HUE CONCEPT INTERIOR DESIGN PTE LTD

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Web: www.hueconcept.com

TIMELESS CLASSIC

Sleek finishes and dapper furnishings make for a polished look



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-bedroom corner terrace
SIZE 3,478 square feet
LOCATION Bukit Batok Road (Pavilion Green)
HOME TO A family of five
DESIGNER Leonard Chung from Rezt & Relax
RENO PERIOD Three months

Founded in 2001, Rezt & Relax is the brainchild of design partners Wilson Teh and John Foo. Their portfolio includes a wide spectrum of residential and commercial projects. The team at Rezt & Relax believes in offering creative design solutions and trend forecasts to help owners relax and unwind in the comfort of their homes.

< LIVING

Featuring classic shades of black and white, the living room's look was elevated with the use of sophisticated textures such as the marble flooring and laminate finishing of the TV feature wall.

> MASTER BEDROOM

A striking feature wall stands out with its stucco finishing, evoking scenes of a starry night sky that's aptly befitting for a bedroom. Aesthetics aside, there's no lack of storage options here. Hidden storage within the vanity table and display shelving for handbags help keep the room neat and uncluttered.

> STUDY

Decked out in bright colours, this family study comes equipped with a full-height book and display shelving that houses the children's favourite reads. Opposite, a custom-built desk and corner settee in matching tones make for a cosy study and reading nook.



#THE GREAT DIVIDE

A customised shoe cabinet provides ample storage and doubles as a partition between the entrance and stairway.



< OUTDOOR

For the patio, a shelter made of artificial glass was constructed to keep out harsh weather elements. As this space functions as a chill-out spot for the family, designer Leonard Chung decked the floor in wooden tiles and filled the area with a jacuzzi and some outdoor furniture pieces.

^ DINING

Blessed with a double volume ceiling, the dining area was outfitted with a cascading ornate chandelier to play up the vertical space. Another focal point of the room is a feature panel which has a sleek, symmetrical outline illuminated by recessed lighting.

REZT & RELAX INTERIOR

No. 33 Ubi Avenue 3 #02-09, Vertex Tower B (Access Lift Lobby B), Singapore 408868

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Web: www.reztnrelax.com  [reztnrelax](https://www.facebook.com/reztnrelax)

MODERN SPLENDOUR

To complement the sophisticated colour scheme of this condominium unit, tasteful design flourishes were put in place



#HIDE & SEEK

*A dropped ceiling
feature conceals the
unsightly wiring.*

FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-bedroom dual key condominium unit
- SIZE** 2,500 square feet
- LOCATION** Telok Kurau
- HOME TO** A family of six
- DESIGNER** Celson Ng from The Orange Cube
- RENO PERIOD** 10 weeks

Inspired and motivated to provide a complete package of services, The Orange Cube is equipped to take clients through design conception to building completion. As a result of this all-encompassing dedication, the company has amassed an impressive portfolio in both residential and commercial projects ever since its establishment 10 years ago. With their can-do attitude and enthusiasm in design and offering impeccable service, it's no wonder the company has gained a firm foothold in the interior design scene.



^ HALLWAY

A full-height, custom-built shelf spans an entire wall in the hallway, juxtaposing against the blue-tinted frosted glass that complements a collection of delicate chinaware. Spotlights were installed in each compartment to further bring out the brilliant colours of the porcelain pieces.

< LIVING

To create the homeowner's desired look of a modern and sophisticated home, designer Celson Ng used plenty of sleek lines and a muted colour theme in the living and dining areas. The communal areas exude a spacious appeal with the restrained use of colours and uniformed design features.



^ MASTER BEDROOM

In here, Celson opted for darker woodgrain laminates for a stronger visual contrast against the white backdrop. To mix it up a little, a strip of dark tinted mirror was added near the base of the wall. Moving further into the room, the walk-in wardrobe was intentionally done up in the same shade of woodgrain laminate for a more cohesive look.



< KID'S BEDROOM

As the bedroom itself had limited storage, Celson had to maximise usage of the minuscule space. He chose to erect a platform for the bed instead, complete with pull-out drawers underneath that can stow away plenty of the son's knick-knacks.

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TACTILE NATURE

Accentuated by dashes of textures oozing with character, the trending industrial look takes on a raw yet nature-inspired spin in this apartment



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room HDB flat
SIZE 1,000 square feet
LOCATION Segar Road
HOME TO A young couple
DESIGNER Three-D Conceptwerke
RENO PERIOD Three months

As a dynamic interior design firm, Three-D Conceptwerke conceptualises urban landscapes and architectural spaces in an unconventional manner. Armed with a team of creative individuals, they seek to create an integrated space where the interior and exterior flow harmoniously together. Taking environmental considerations into account, the aim is to materialise a distinctive space that is both spiritually and visually ideal without sacrificing function.



#GREEN THUMB

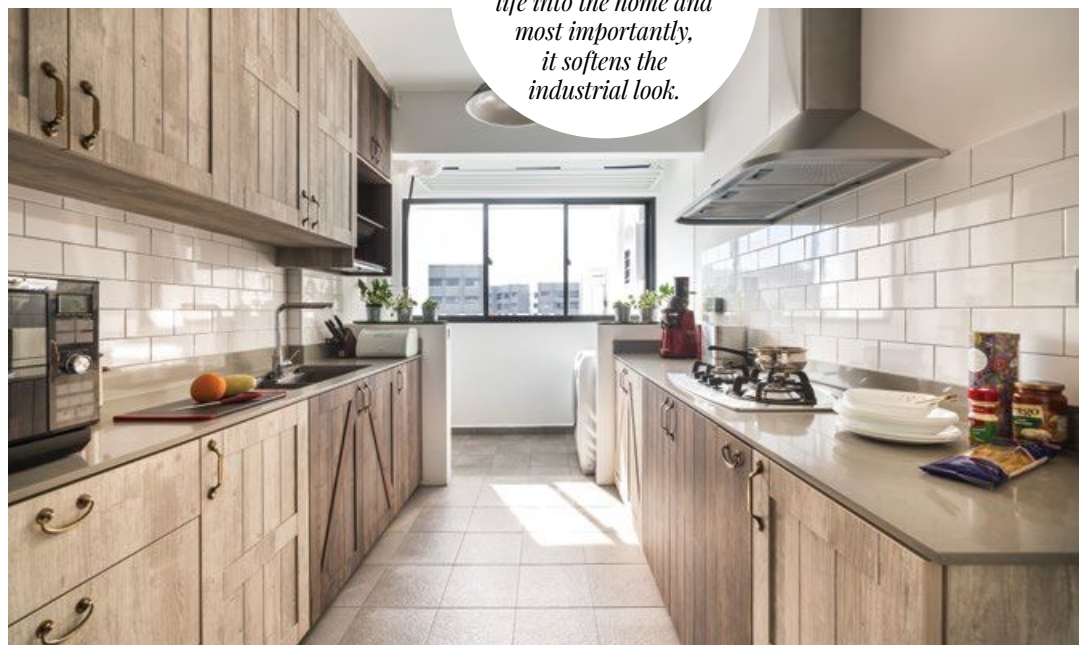
Potted pots inject a sense of freshness and life into the home and most importantly, it softens the industrial look.

^ STUDY

Taking into account the homeowners' extensive comics collection, the designers allocated a space for a cosy and light-filled reading nook. Instead of walls, the room is enclosed by glass windows outlined by a black frame to let daylight in. A full-height display shelf keeps the books in order.

< LIVING

No industrial-style home is complete without the quintessential brick wall. The designers from Three-D Conceptwerke installed one here made of cultured bricks. The backdrop is well-contrasted by selected furnishings in bright hues. The wall's unfinished look is also complemented by fresh succulents and a green rug to portray a laid-back, cosy cafe setting.



^ KITCHEN

Taking the industrial theme further with warehouse-inspired carpentry works, the designers worked in kitchen counters with doors that resemble wooden crates. Constructed from plywood with a laminate finish, it makes for a great visual contrast against the white subway tile backsplash.

^ BATHROOM

A total overhaul was required to switch up the style of this bathroom. The designers retiled the flooring and walls so that it aligned with the overall industrial aesthetics.

THREE-D CONCEPTWERKE

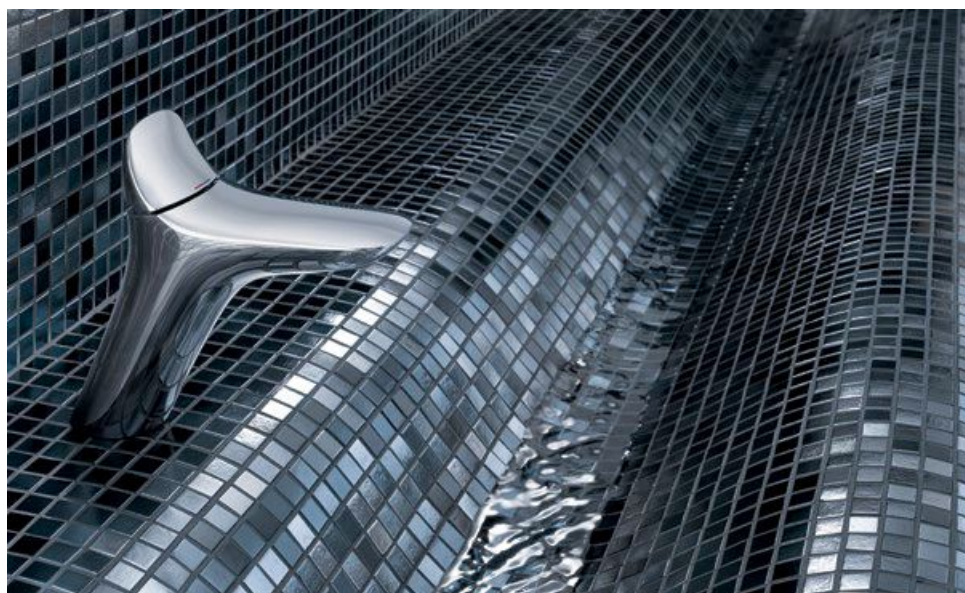
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Tel: 6293 8001 Fax: 6294 8001 Email: enquiries@three-d-conceptwerke.com

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A THING *of beauty*

Your bathroom can be stylish and still functional with KLUDI's sleek and versatile line of AMBA mixers



The bathroom may be your private sanctuary, but it deserves to look as beautiful as any other room at home. There's no reason why not – it is, after all, a space you frequent every day. Thankfully, there's German bathroom specialist KLUDI who makes it easy to jazz up your bathroom with their line of AMBA mixers.

The first thing you notice is the minimal, inconspicuous design. The mixer looks like it has

been cast in one piece because there are no showy details to distract your eye. There's only a discreet red and blue marking that indicates the operating mechanism. Even the handle, which regulates the flow of water and temperature and is located at the top of the body, is only evident when in use. The jet controller, which produces a full and gentle stream of water, is built into the spout so it's also hidden. But AMBA is not only subtle, it's also really stylish. Sensuous, gentle contours combine elegant, smooth surfaces with a polished chrome finish so the mixer looks more like art than hardware.

When it comes down to it, bathrooms have to be functional spaces too. So it's great to know that the mixer is not only visually gorgeous, it's also beautifully versatile so you can adapt them to any bathroom situation. The mixers can be fitted into nearly any type of washbasins, whether wall-mounted or free-standing. And there are options for baths and standing showers too.

The single-lever mixers are available in two spout heights, 213mm and 273mm for

free-standing bowls, and also feature two versions for use in either large washbasins in a master bathroom or smaller hand basins in guests' bathrooms. There's also the two-hole single mixer for concealed installation that comes with a wall spout of either 180mm or 220mm. Complete your bathroom with AMBA's extensive line of accessories, consisting of chrome-plated hooks, handles and holders with inserts made of fine porcelain.

KLUDI AMBA has won numerous design prizes including the iF Design Award, a "Special Mention" at the German Design Award, the Plus X Award and the Interior Innovation Award.

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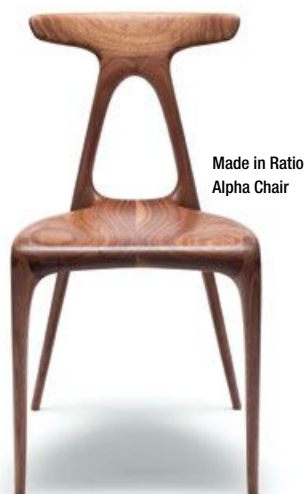
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TEXT Disa Tan PHOTO House Doctor

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